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# *Historical Sketches*

Historical Society of Montgomery County



ISD  
(Montgomery)  
Historical

















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*Theo. W. Bran*

# HISTORICAL SKETCHES.

A COLLECTION OF PAPERS PREPARED  
FOR THE

## HISTORICAL SOCIETY

OF

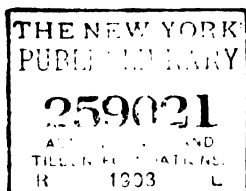
### MONTGOMERY COUNTY,

PENNSYLVANIA.

PUBLISHED BY THE SOCIETY.

VOLUME I.

NORRISTOWN, PA.:  
HERALD PRINTING AND BINDING ROOMS.  
1895.



ROY WEBB  
JUL 1934  
WEBB

OFFICERS  
OF THE  
Historical Society of Montgomery County, Pa.  
1895.

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## INTRODUCTORY.

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The objects of a county historical society are to perpetuate a record of important events occurring within the county, or in any way affecting its welfare, and also to preserve the memory of eminent persons who have lived within its borders, or who have advanced its interests.

The Historical Society of Montgomery County was incorporated on May 11, 1883. The object of this society, as stated in its charter, was "the study and preservation of the history of Montgomery County, Pennsylvania." The society had its real start several years before a charter was obtained. A strong motive for forming the society was to prepare for a proper celebration of the one hundredth anniversary of the formation of the county. The Act of Assembly for erecting part of the county of Philadelphia into a separate county, to be called Montgomery, was passed on September 10, 1784.

The first meeting for establishing the Historical Society was held at the Court House, Norristown, on February 22, 1881. Among those who signed a call for this meeting, most of whom were present, were Dr. Hiram Corson, Major Wm. H. Holstein, Col. Theodore W. Bean, Robert Iredell, Gen. William J. Bolton, Moses Auge, Isaac Chism, Reuben Kriebel, Samuel M. Corson, F. G. Hobson, Prof. R. F. Hoffecker, Isaac Roberts, Nathaniel Jacoby, Jones Detwiler, L. H. Davis, Dr. J. S. Shrawde, William M. Clift, A. K. Thomas, William J. Pinder, William H. Bean, M. S. Longaker, Wm. J. Nicholls, and Auchenbach. Col. Theodore W. Bean was made president, and Samuel M. Corson secretary.

A permanent organization of the society was soon formed. A name for it was selected, constitution and by-laws were

adopted, ladies were declared eligible for membership, and dues fixed. A circular letter was prepared and sent to public spirited citizens throughout the county, asking them to assist in collecting historical information for the purposes of the society. The interest of William J. Buck, Abraham Cassel and other local historians and antiquarians was enlisted, and their assistance was promised.

It was determined to hold meetings of the society monthly, and they were so held for several years. But subsequently the meetings were held quarterly; the principal meeting being always held on the 22d of February of each year. These meetings were mostly held at the Court House, Norristown, the County Commissioners having given a room there for the use of the society. The larger meetings were held in one of the court rooms. Meetings were also held at the houses of members, among them William B. Livezey, Plymouth; Jacob L. Rex, Whitpain; Charles Fitzwater, Flourtown; and Francis Whiting, Jeffersonville. The society also held a meeting in July, 1889, at Valley Forge, where they were addressed by Hon. John S. Wise, of Virginia. A joint meeting with the Bucks County Historical Society was held at Ambler, in June, 1886. A general meeting in the interests of the society was held at the Court House, on December 29, 1893, presided over by Hon. Aaron S. Swartz, President Judge of the county, and addressed by Gen. W. W. H. Davis, of Doylestown, and by the State Librarian, Dr. Wm. H. Egle, of Harrisburg. Several banquets have been given by the society, at which suitable toasts were responded to by the members and invited guests.

The successful celebration of the centennial of the formation of Montgomery county was largely owing to the Historical Society. This occurred on September 9, 10, 11 and 12, 1884. The celebration of this centennial was one of the motives leading to the original formation of the society. A joint association, called the Centennial Association, was then formed, composed of members of the Historical Society, public officers of the county, and some public-spirited citizens, for the purpose of promoting and carrying out the celebration.

This association was under the control of the Historical Society. A great deal of time and labor was spent in preparing for the celebration. It was made a great success, and was a credit to the county and to those engaged in its management. A volume, giving a full account of the celebration, was issued under the auspices of this society. The celebration was even made a success financially. It was so well managed that of the receipts, after paying all expenses, and after wiping out all the accumulated debts of the Historical Society, there remained a surplus of \$1,200. That sum was paid over to this society in trust, to be invested in good real estate security, the principal sum to remain intact, and the interest only to be used for the objects of the society. The fund has been kept intact for the purpose of the trust.

After the centennial celebration was over, a reaction set in, and the Historical Society began to languish. General interest in it seemed to decline. For several years only a few kept up the organization and attended its meetings. But presently there was a revival of interest and a considerable increase of membership. This was largely due to the efforts of Senator A. D. Markley. He sought and obtained for it recognition and members. He presented it with a number of historical books and documents, and induced others to make similar contributions.

The society is now in a flourishing condition. It has on its lists the names of sixty members. It gladly welcomes to its membership all who feel an interest in its objects. The entrance fee for members is one dollar, and the dues are fifty cents a year.

Much of the success of the society was due to Col. Theodore W. Bean. He was largely instrumental in its formation. He labored for it and worked hard to keep up its organization. At his death the society lost an efficient and active member. He was its first president, and continued to serve it in that capacity until 1889, when he declined a re-election. He was succeeded as president by Hon. Jones Detwiler, and the latter by Hon. Hiram C. Hoover.

The society is collecting a historical library, and has a good collection of such books. A number of books and documents were given to it. Some books were purchased. It desires to have a complete collection of all books of a local historical nature. It will be glad to receive donations of any printed matter, such as local sketches; histories of townships, churches, schools and societies; school catalogues; lists of members of local societies; genealogies of families, any of whom have ever lived in this county; old directories of towns; and historical documents and letters.

At one time an effort was made in the society to establish auxiliary historical societies throughout the county. Unfortunately, the plan was not urged. It would be well if something of this nature were done.

The legitimate work of the society being the study and preservation of the county's history, much has been done by it in that direction.

A number of papers and sketches concerning the county history have been prepared for the society by such of its members as are especially interested in historical research, and have been read at its meetings. Most of these papers are the result of careful investigation. They record facts gathered with much labor and patiently collated. There is in them much of interest to the people of this county. In order the better to preserve them a committee was appointed by the society to arrange for their publication in a permanent form. For that purpose this book is issued by the society.

The first paper prepared for the society and read at its meetings was a sketch of the early settlement of Plymouth and Whitpain townships, by Samuel M. Corson, of Plymouth Meeting. He was the first secretary of the society. He died not long after preparing that paper. The paper has unfortunately been lost. It was carefully prepared, and reflected the ability of its author. It is to be regretted that it can not be included in this publication.

Several other papers which were read at the society's meetings, and which this committee considered worthy to be

included in this volume, have been omitted at the request of their authors. They were not satisfied with their work, and did not consider it of sufficient value to permit its publication.

The society expects to continue in the future the publication of such papers and sketches as may be hereafter prepared for it.

JOSEPH FORNANCE,  
JONES DETWILER,  
MRS. A. CONRAD JONES,  
*Committee on Publication.*

NORRISTOWN, PA., June 20, 1894.

## COL. THEODORE W. BEAN.

Prepared by William McDermott.

The Montgomery County Historical Society, desiring to place in more permanent form the sentiments of esteem and regard entertained for the founder of the society, Theodore Weber Bean, and for his diversified talents and accomplishments, lay this tribute of our abiding respect as a memento upon his grave.

Whether at the bar, before judge and jury, with forensic eloquence and knowledge of the great fundamental principles of law; or in the dominion of literature, as historian or author, proving his scholarship and accuracy of information; or on the platform of the orator or lecturer; or on the field of battle, with a calmness and courage that inspired all around him; whether in one, or in all these relations of life, Colonel Bean proved himself qualified to take rank with his associates. Here in our own society, when many were disappointed and disheartened, and our outlook was without encouragement, his indomitable will, that knew no retreat, his cheerful spirit that looked upon the bright side of all questions, kept marching on unconscious of defeat. We, in turn, took faith from his enthusiasm and all kept step to the music of advance and progress, until now success perches upon the standard of the Montgomery County Historical Society.

We therefore owe our present position largely to him who was a father, a citizen, and a soldier in the best qualities of all these relations of life, and it is fitting that this first publication of our society should bear record of his life and services.

In taking the chair at the first meeting of the society, Col. Bean said:

•

Gentlemen: I beg to acknowledge the compliment tendered in the presidency of this meeting, the presence of which is encouraging. It has been thought proper that measures should be taken to preserve the common history of our ancestry as associated with the organization and development of the county, and that the initiatory steps should be taken in preparing for a proper celebration or memorial to mark the close of its first century.

In this country comparatively new in these subdivisions of the earth, we have been more successful in making history than in preserving it. The almost marvelous achievements of the great heroic and distinguished men and women who have preceded us in the work of life, and bequeathed to us civil and religious liberty and the personal advantages of permanent self-government, place us under obligations to reciprocate in some measure the distinguished favor, and, if possible, to rescue their work, their common history, from the households of their progeny before it is forgotten or deemed of minor importance. To this end this meeting has been called, and we hope it will result in permanent and effective organization, intelligent and methodical effort, until the work is accomplished.

The history of a country can not be written by the ordinary bookmaker; it comes from the thousands of homes where it is lived and repeated in the generations constantly succeeding each other. And it is only when the archives of the rich contributions of facts are associated with the domestic, civil and religious and political lives of those gone before that we can write a book that will adequately tell the beautiful story of their hardship and perils, their devotion and sacrifice, their patriotism and achievements.

After serving as president of the society for the first eight years of its existence, Col. Bean wrote the following letter:

NORRISTOWN, PA., February 19, 1889.

*To the Officers and Members of the Montgomery County Historical Society:*

I regret my necessary absence from home, and inability to attend the annual meeting of the society. It will, I hope, be understood that it is from no want of interest in the work of this organization, which is of greater future than present interest.

In this connection, I beg leave most sincerely to suggest the propriety—indeed, I think the necessity—of changing our



custom of re-electing the president. I feel confident that our progress will be best assured by inviting to the chair a succession of gentlemen who feel alike a deep interest in the growth and prosperity of the society. To this end, I beg leave to decline further service as president, and ask to be placed on duty as a member of the Executive Committee, where I may contribute as best I know to the usefulness of the society.

With great respect, very truly yours;

THEO. W. BEAN.

In accordance with his request, Col. Bean was placed on the Executive Committee, and served the society in that capacity until the time of his death, January 20, 1891.

At the annual meeting of the society, held February 26, 1891, Mr. Wm. McDermott presented the following memorial:

To us, assembled at this, the annual meeting of the Historical Society of Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, the vacant chair of Col. Theodore W. Bean tells its story of sadness; and we realize the grief we feel and the irreparable loss the society has sustained in his death.

In Col. Bean we recognized the organizer and the inspiration of the society. To his enthusiasm and constant devotion to its success and welfare the perpetuation of the organization is largely due. He was its first president, and continued in office consecutively for eight years, retiring only because the pressure of his other public and official duties prevented his giving the time and attention the position demanded; and his connection was no half-hearted service.

His varied and extensive knowledge, his studious research, his analytical mind brought to us much that was valuable, and much that would otherwise have been lost not only to the society but also to the county and the state.

As a citizen, as a soldier, as an author, as a lawyer, as a legislator, and as a patriot, on the battle-field and in civil life, he discharged every duty and every obligation with fidelity and devotion.

We extend our sympathies to the family, who, above all others, feel the poignant pangs of sorrow, for he was a most devoted husband and father. We commend the grieving household to Him who alone can heal the wounded heart.

The following biographical sketch of Col. Bean was prepared by order of the Pennsylvania Commandery of the Military Order of the Legion of the United States, and read at a stated meeting of the Board of Officers, Philadelphia, May 11, 1891:

## THEODORE WEBER BEAN.

Second Lieutenant 17th Pennsylvania Cavalry, October 17, 1862; First Lieutenant, November 21, 1862; Captain, November 1, 1863; honorably mustered out, June 20, 1865.

Brevetted Major of United States Volunteers, March 13, 1865, "for distinguished and gallant services during the late campaign in Virginia"; Lieutenant-Colonel, March 13, 1865, "for distinguished services throughout the late campaign."

Elected November 1, 1882. Class 1. Insignia 2578.

Born in Montgomery county, Pa., May 14, 1833.

Died at Norristown, Pa., January 20, 1891.

Companion Bean was mustered into the service of the United States as a private of Company L, 17th Pennsylvania Cavalry, September 17, 1862, "to serve for three years or during the war." He was appointed First Sergeant on the organization of the company, and promoted to Second and First Lieutenant before the command left the state. He became Captain of his company May 30, 1863. The command entered the Army of the Potomac in the winter of 1862, and participated in all its subsequent campaigns, including Chancellorsville, Beverly Ford, Aldie, Gettysburg, Winchester, Five Forks, Taylor's Creek, and Appomattox. During the first day's battle at Gettysburg the services of Captain Bean attracted the attention of his division commander, General Buford, and after the battle he was called to division headquarters and placed on staff duty as provost marshal. He continued to serve as a member of General Buford's staff until the death of that officer, and subsequently on the staffs of Generals Merritt and Torbert, remaining with the latter until the surrender of the Army of Northern Virginia at Appomattox, April 9, 1865.

During his whole period of service Col. Bean displayed that same indomitable energy, courage and devotion to duty so characteristic of his whole life, whether as soldier or civilian. Gifted with intelligence and foresight, never hesitating when he saw his duty clearly defined, ever obedient and ready to

obey orders, he at all times attracted the attention of his superiors as an invaluable assistant when nerve, energy, promptness and courage were required. Among his fellow-officers he was always a favorite because of his suavity and kindness of manner. Without one particle of envy or jealousy in his nature, he was ever willing to add to the happiness of others regardless of self.

At the age of sixteen he was apprenticed to a blacksmith, and for years followed that honorable occupation; but his desire to advance himself in life led him to adopt the law as a profession. He was admitted to the bar of his native county February 24, 1869, and continued in active practice until the close of his life January 20, 1891.

In 1873 he delivered a course of lectures on the subject of "Property Rights of Married and Single Women" before the Pennsylvania Female College, at Collegeville, Pa. He was devoted to literature, and was especially interested in the study of history. As an orator he ranked high, and his services were eagerly sought after upon important occasions. He was the author of "The Roll of Honor of the 17th Pennsylvania Cavalry," "Footprints of the Revolution; or, Washington at Valley Forge One Hundred Years Ago"; *Annals of the War*—"Buford at Gettysburg," "Custer's Charge at Yellow Tavern," "The Fall of General Zook," "General Pleasanton at Chancellorsville," "Sheridan in the Shenandoah."

He also delivered Memorial Day orations at Lancaster, Pa., 1882; *Cavalry Post*, No. 35, 1883; *Seven Pines*, Va., 1888; and *Bryn Mawr*, Pa., 1890. In 1884 he published a history of Montgomery county, Pa. It was mainly through Colonel Bean's efforts that Valley Forge was preserved to the nation as sacred ground. He labored long and earnestly with other noble spirits to make this hallowed spot worthy to be visited and remembered for all time to come.

Always interested in the cause of education, he advocated with much earnestness the subject of manual training in the public schools; and in 1887 Governor Beaver appointed him a member of the State Commission on Industrial Education, which body presented an exhaustive report on the subject to the Legislature of Pennsylvania. In 1889 he was elected to the Legislature, and during the session was made chairman of the Committee on Education. He took an active part in the debates, and was regarded as one of the leading members of that body.

Colonel Bean was particularly happy in his domestic relations. He was a kind and devoted husband and father, devoting his whole life to the advancement and welfare of his family. He leaves to survive him a wife and three children.

COE DURLAND,  
Brevet Colonel United States Volunteers,

LOUIS W. READ,  
Brevet Lieutenant-Colonel United States Volunteers,

HENRY K. WEAND,  
Captain 15th Pennsylvania Cavalry,  
*Committee.*

## WHITEMARSH.

By William A. Yeakle.

When the Europeans first came to the shores of the Delaware, they found it inhabited by the Indians. All the eastern part of what is now the state of Pennsylvania was occupied by roving bands of the Lenni Lenape, one of that great family of nations known as the Five Nations, or Mengwe, or more frequently by us called Iroquois. The territory of the Lenni Lenape, or, as they became better known to the white settlers, the Delawares, from the river of that name, included all that region of country lying between the Hudson and Susquehanna rivers, and consequently both sides of the Delaware river and bay. Under the general name of the Delawares was comprehended quite a number of distinct tribes, yet speaking dialects of a common language, and gathering around the same council fire. William Penn, when he landed on the shores of the Delaware, in 1682, at once concluded a treaty of peace and friendship with the aborigines, and thus laid the foundation of that security and good will which for seventy years guaranteed to the early settlers that prosperity and safety for which the colony of Pennsylvania became proverbial, and so conducive to its growth.

The treaty made at the Great Elm Tree at Kensington was shortly followed by others, by which the Indians relinquished their right to lands, from time to time, as it became necessary for occupation by the immigration which was flowing into the colony. July 14, 1683, a treaty was made by Penn's agents with Neneshickan, Malebore, Neshanocke, and Oscreenon, for the purchase of all the lands lying between the Schuylkill and Pennepack streams, extending northwest as far as the Conshohocken ridge of hills. By this treaty the lower

part of the present county of Montgomery was relinquished and quit-claimed by the Indians. This included the southwest corner of the township of Whitemarsh.

On the 30th of July, 1685, a treaty was ratified with the Indians by which they released to the whites, all their right and title to the lands described within the limits of Montgomery county, excepting that part lying east of the Pennepack creek. The treaty is in the following words:

We, Shakhoppah, Secane, Malebore, Tangoras, Indian Sakamackers, and right owners of ye lands lying between Macopanackan, alias Upland, now called Chester river or creek, and the river or creek of Pemapecka, now called Dublin creek, beginning at a hill called Conshohockin, on the river Manaiunk, or Schuylkill, from thence extending a parallel line to the said Macopanackan (alias Chester creek) by a southwesterly course, and from the said Conshohockin hill to the aforesaid Pemapecka (alias Dublin creek), by the said parallel line, northwesterly, and so up along the said Pemapecka as far as the creek extends, and so from thence northwesterly back into the woods, to make up two full days' journey, as far as a man can go in two days from the said station of the said parallel line at Pemapecka, as also beginning at the said parallel at Macopanackan (Chester creek), and so from thence up the said creek as far as it extends, and from thence northwesterly back into the woods, to make up two full days' journey, as far as a man can go in two days from the said station of the said parallel line at the said Macopanackan creek, alias Chester—For and in consideration of 200 fathoms of wampum, 30 fathoms of duffells, 30 guns, 60 fathoms of strawd waters, 30 kettles, 30 shirts, 20 gun belts, 12 pairs shoes, 30 pairs stockings, 30 pairs scissors, 30 combs, 30 axes, 30 knives, 21 tobacco tongs, 30 bars of lead, 30 pounds powder, 30 awls, 30 glasses, 30 tobacco boxes, 30 papers of beads, 44 pounds of red lead, 30 pairs of hawks' bells, 6 drawing knives, 6 caps, 12 hoes—To us in hand well and truly paid by William Penn, proprietary and governor of Pennsylvania and territories—Do by these presents grant, bargain, sell, &c., all right, title and interest that we or any others shall or may claim in the same—hereby renouncing and disclaiming forever any claim or pretence to the premises, for us, our heirs and successors, and all other Indians whatsoever. In witness whereof we set our

hands and seals, &c., this 30th day of the 5th mo., called July, and in the year 1685.

Shakhoppah,  
Malebore,

Secane,  
Tangoras.

Sealed and delivered to Thomas Holme, president of the provincial council, in the presence of us :

Great Men of the Indians.

Tareckhoua,  
Penoughant,  
Wesakant,  
Kacocahahous,  
Nehallas,  
Toutamen,  
Tepasekenin,

Lasse Cock,  
Mouns Cock,  
Swan Swanson,  
Ism Frampton,  
Saml. Carpenter,  
Will Asley,  
Arthur Cook,  
Tryall Holme.

In the above deed all the Indians affixed their marks to their names, both the chiefs and those who witnessed it. Thus it will be seen that by this transaction, and the former one mentioned, the Indians surrendered all claims to any land in that part of Philadelphia, now embraced within the limits of Montgomery county, except that part east of the Pennypack, which was conveyed July 5, 1697, by Tamany and other Sag-amores, to Penn's agents.

By these several treaties the territory included therein became open to settlement and occupation by the white people, and Whitemarsh, among other districts, became in time industrious communities. It is not well established how or whence the township received its name. W. J. Buck, in his History of Montgomery County within the Schuylkill Valley, suggests that the name may be derived from the sand rising out of the springs at Springmill, which resembles pewter sand. On this point the opinion of the Rev. D. C. Millett, formerly pastor of St. Thomas' Church, and author of a History of the Church of St. Thomas, is preferable and more likely to be correct, that the name was derived from a parish in England.

The township was settled at quite an early day. It is well authenticated that Major Jasper Farmar arrived from England, at Philadelphia, the 10th of the Ninth month, 1685,

in the vessel called the Bristol Merchant, John Stephens commander, with his family, consisting of himself, his wife Mary, and children Edward, Richard, Jasper, Jr., Sarah, John, Robert, Catharine and Charles. Previous to his arrival in Pennsylvania, he had obtained from the Proprietary Governor a patent for himself and two of his sons, Richard and Jasper, Jr., consisting in all of about 5000 acres of land, embracing all the land in the limits of Whitemarsh, south of the Skippack and Church roads to the Schuylkill river. Holmes' map of original surveys outlines the plot of the patent quite distinctly, and in conformity to the lines of the township as at the present time. The patent is dated January 31, 1683, and recorded in the Rolls office in Philadelphia, in Book A, page 3. These facts I have from a deed in my possession dated December 30, 1708, from Edward Farmar to Henrich Kasselbery, of Germantown, an original settler of that ancient bergh, containing the signature of Edward Farmar, with the coat of arms of the Farmar family and witnessed by Joshua Lawrence, a prominent merchant of Philadelphia, Peter Wishart, Derrick Indehoff, one of the burghers of Germantown, and David Lloyd, so many years speaker of the Assembly, who gave so much trouble to William Penn and James Logan. In all the deeds I have seen, I find the name is spelled Farmar instead of Farmer. It is evident that Major Farmar died shortly after his arrival in the colony, in the latter part of 1685, as by his will we find that his wife became his legatee together with his son Edward in this year.

Jasper Farmar, Jr., died just previous to his father, and as no partition of the patent had been made at the death of Major Farmar, his wife, usually known as Madame Farmar, and Catharine, wife of the said Jasper, Jr., made a partition, by which one-half of the 5000 acres by will became in fee the property of Madame Farmar, and the other one-half the property of her two sons, Richard and Jasper, Jr.

Richard Farmar, about this time, disposed of his share of 1250 acres to one Thomas Webb, who sold to Madame Farmar this interest, making her estate jointly with her son



Edward amount to 3750 acres. At the death of the said Madame Farmar, she by will bequeathed to her son Edward all her estate, and thus Edward Farmar became owner of three-fourths of the patent. Madame Farmar died near the close of the year 1686. Buck, Millett and others make this patent contain from 6000 to 9000 acres, which is evidently wrong, as may be seen from old deeds yet to be had.

Major Farmar was an officer in the British army, and by birth a gentleman. It is not known, I believe, that he ever lived within the limits of the township. It is presumed that after his death, his wife, Madame Farmar, resided here. At all events his son Edward became a resident, living at the present village of Whitemarsh. From the Colonial Records it is known that Major Farmar brought over with him a number of servants and settled them upon his plantation, and that John Scull, who came in the same vessel, was his overseer.

All that portion of the township lying north of the Skip-pack and Church roads was originally owned by John Green and Samuel Rolls.

The name of Whitemarsh, from whence derived, and also when the township first received its present name, is not well established. In the old deed above quoted it is named Farmarstown, and in another which I have, 1720, it mentions Edward Farmar as of Farmarstown, alias Whitemarsh. Thus it appears that at this early day the present name was not universally applied or used. However uncertain the origin of the name may be, we who are to the manor born cherish the name of Whitemarsh as among the most beautiful of our old colonial names, and shall always hold in high regard our ancestors who displayed such good sense in selecting one so original and beautiful. I must just here ask the indulgence of the reader, to excuse me if I suggest that the name never be parted into two words, but be written in one continuous word, which I think is the better usage.

The Indian name of the township, and I suppose the surrounding country, was Umbilicamence. This I have from an old deed now in possession of Silas Cleaver. On the 14th of

April, 1747, the executors of Edward Farmar executed title to George Greenfield (late the property of Henry W. Schultz, deceased), in which they say, among other things, this property "being part of the lands by the Indians then called Umbilicamence." Thus it will be seen that Whitemarsh and surrounding country was known to the aborigines by this name, a name now entirely lost to residents of the township, and only brought to light in searching among old, musty documents.

Among the early settlers of this township were David Williams, Abraham Dawes and John Rhoads, who came before 1703 and located in the vicinity of Plymouth Meeting. They were Friends. William Trotter, a minister of the same society, was an early settler, and commenced preaching in his 21st year, at Plymouth, and died in 1794, aged 53 years.

The following list embraces the land owners and tenants, forty-eight in number, residing in the township in 1734:

Edward Farmar,	Walter Gahone,
Jonathan Robison,	Caspar Simms,
Edith Davis,	Isaac Morris,
John Klinky,	William English,
Henry Bartlestal,	William Trotter,
Marchant Maulsby,	James Stroud,
Nicholas Stiglits,	John Anderson,
Benj. Charlesworth,	Joseph Woolen,
John Morris,	Evan Jones,
Jonathan Potts,	John Scull,
Samuel Gilkey,	John Parker,
Josiah White,	Henry Rinker,
Jacob Coltman,	John Ramsay, Jr.,
Thomas Shepherd,	Edward Stroud,
David Davis,	John Ramsey,
John Petty,	John Campbell,
Margaret Nichols,	Henry Stewart,
Francis Cawly,	Jenken Davis,
David Harry,	John Patterson,
William Williams,	Joseph Fareis,
Frederick Stone,	John Coulston,
Joseph Williams,	Handle Hansell,
Adam Kitler,	Matthias Ignorance.
Lodwick Knoos,	

Edward Farmar, above noticed, son of Major Farmar, settled in Whitemarsh at what is since known as the village of Whitemarsh, where he built the first mill in the township, which in its day was known as Farmar's Mill, and for many years accommodated the entire country northward, extending to the Berks county line. The inhabitants living in what now is Upper Hanover and Franconia townships were accustomed to get their wheat and grain ground at this mill, carrying it usually on the backs of horses and return with it ready for use; far different from this age of steam and multiplicity of mills. This mill was erected some time before 1722, and on the same spot where Joseph Mathers afterwards erected his fine mill so widely known within this century, and owned subsequently by the late Hon. William H. Witte, and now in the possession of Charles Otterson, Esq.

Edward Farmar acted frequently as Indian interpreter. On the 19th of May, 1712, an Indian treaty was made at his place, when the more prominent Delaware chiefs, Allummapist or Sasunan, Ealochelan and Scolitchy, were present, the latter being the main speaker. Governor Charles Gookin and several of his friends were present. Mr. Farmar was a justice of the courts of Philadelphia county for a period of nearly forty years, having been commissioned September 4, 1704. In May, 1701, he, with John Scotch, was sent to the Lehigh to solve the intentions of the Indians.

The church road, extending from the Oxford Church in Philadelphia to Whitemarsh, or Farmar's Mill, was laid out in or about the year 1685.

In 1698, the great road, so called in old deeds, leading to North Wales, was opened from the top of Chestnut Hill to Farmar's Mill for the purpose of hauling lime to Philadelphia, which at this early day was manufactured at this place; probably on the place on the south side of the present Skippack road on the property owned by Samuel W. Comly.

Edward Farmar donated the ground upon which St. Thomas' church and grave-yard are located for a place of worship under the auspices of the Church of England, but the

time of the donation is not known. Tradition, which may be at fault, has it that the first house of worship was built of logs between 1690 and 1700, but was destroyed in 1710 by fire, said to have been purposely done. In 1710 a new structure of stone was erected, which stood in the northeast corner of the old grave-yard for a space of 107 years.

Mr. Farmar was elected a member of Assembly of the colony in the year 1710. David Lloyd, who was Speaker of the Assembly for many years, and who, by his continued opposition to the proprietary interests, had incurred the enmity of James Logan to such an extent that at the election throughout the province, the old Assembly with Lloyd at their head was completely defeated, and the result was that an entirely new Assembly was chosen in its place.

Of the new body Edward Farmar was one, and continued a member of the Legislature, with few exceptions, until his death, which occurred on the 3d of November, 1745.

The large slab that covers the remains of Edward Farmar still lies in its original position, and was then in the upper part of the north aisle of the old church.

Lime was manufactured in Whitemarsh at a very early day, and probably earlier than at any other place in the province. In a letter written by Dr. Nicholas More, President of the Free Society of Traders in Pennsylvania, to William Penn, dated Green Spring, the 13th of September, 1686, and published in the fourth volume of the Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography, page 445, etc., it is said that "Madame Farmar has found out as good lime-stone on the *Schoolkill* as any in the world, and is building with it; she offers to sell ten thousand bushels at six pence the bushel, upon her plantation, where there are several considerable hills, and near to your *manner* of Springfield." This letter was originally printed in 1687, and a fac simile of it published by the Pennsylvania Historical Society in 1880. The original letter is in the library of the late John Carter Brown, of Providence, R. I. The description "on the *Schoolkill*" and likewise "considerable hills and near to your *manner* of Springfield," I think unquestionably

fixes the location on the property owned by Mrs. Toland, late the estate of John Righter, Sr., deceased, or the adjoining property of a Mr. Toole, as old kilns and quarries bear evidence of the above facts. Thus it is evident that this township, so largely engaged in the production of lime throughout its entire length, from the Sandy run on the east to the Schuylkill on the west, for the distance of about six miles, has the honor of being the first in the province to have originated this industry.

As roads became necessary to get the lime to Philadelphia, the Provincial Council, held May 19, 1698, upon petition of Nicholas Scull, laid out a road from Whitemarsh to intersect the Plymouth road at Cresheim, in old deeds, etc., the Great Road. The Chestnut Hill and Springtown turnpike was built upon the bed of this road about 1806 or 1807. The Plymouth road was opened in the spring of 1687 as a "cart road," for the purpose of hauling lime to Philadelphia. (This is what was known until lately as the Germantown and Perkiomen turnpike, laid out as such in 1804.) It is likely this is the first road laid out for hauling lime to the city. The Limekiln road, though not in this township, was laid out in 1693 from Germantown to Upper Dublin, for the purpose of obtaining the lime from the vicinity of Fitzwatertown.

Edward Farmar was engaged in the business of lime burning, as he furnished lime at various times for erection of buildings on Springettsburg Manor to Thomas and Richard Penn, from the year 1732 until the time of his death in 1745. Francis Rawle, who settled in Plymouth in 1685 (but remained only a short time), says in his *Account of Pennsylvania*, printed by S. Keimer, "lime-stone we have great plenty, also marble."

St. Thomas' Church and parish, as already mentioned, owes its existence to the munificence of Mr. Farmar. According to tradition it was built originally between 1690 and 1700 of logs, but burnt down in 1710, when it was rebuilt of stone, and stood for 107 years. From the year 1710 the history of the parish is well preserved and authentic. This is one of the

early churches of the Episcopalians, and almost coeval with Christ's, Radnor or Oxford churches.

It was about 1695 that a clergyman of the Church of England, the Rev. Mr. Clayton, first established episcopal services in Philadelphia. He died, however, in 1698. He was followed in 1700 by the Rev. Evan Evans, for many years the rector of Christ Church, Philadelphia. It is supposed that both Clayton and Evans officiated at this place; at least, it is known that the latter was quite an industrious rector, and ministered to the different churches from fifteen to sixteen miles from Philadelphia. In 1718 the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in foreign parts sent over the Rev. Mr. Weyman as the missionary at Oxford and Radnor. In this charge he remained until 1732, when he resigned that of Radnor and confined his labors principally to Oxford and St. Thomas, Whitemarsh. Rev. Mr. Buchanan, in his account of the Oxford church, says, "Two congregations, which from that time continued to be associated under one minister until a comparatively late period." Mr. Weyman was succeeded in these two churches, June 24, 1733, by Rev. Alexander Howie. Very little is known of the history of his church during the nine years of his pastorate, when he left for the West Indies. There is no account of vestrymen until 1742, when John Barge and Hugh Burke were elected wardens, and Thomas Bartholomew, William Malchor, Edd. Burk, Francis Colly, William Dewees, Sr., and John Burk, vestrymen. Rev. Alexander Currie succeeded Mr. Howie, who in turn was followed by Rev. Eneas Ross. With this church, in connection with the one at Oxford, he remained fifteen years, or until 1758, with great acceptance, always assiduous in the discharge of his duties.

Among the vestrymen at this time, or until 1766, occur the names of Leverew, Renolds, Sternard, and Donat. Of a later date the names of Aiman, Cleaver, Hague, Nash, Shay, Summerfield, Redherfer, Horner, Wooling, Barge, Bisbing, Robeson and Gilkeson occur, whose descendants are quite numerous in the surrounding neighborhood and among our best citizens.

Mr. Ross was the first pastor who kept a record of baptisms and marriages, and was the last to do so for nearly half a century. On Mr. Ross's transfer to New Castle, Del., Rev. Hugh Neill took charge, namely, in 1758. In speaking of St. Thomas's congregation in 1758, he says: "There are one hundred and fifty attendants at church at Whitemarsh; not more than thirty are church members (i. e. communicants), while the rest are dissenters or young Dutch people who have learned English." After 1766, when Mr. Neill left the church, it is probable that Rev. Dr. Smith officiated occasionally in this parish on to about 1799.

It is very much to be regretted that the records of this church were lost—those covering the entire period previous to 1786, with the exception of one book containing the records from 1742 until 1766. This church, in common with all other congregations in connection with the Church of England, had its difficulties and trials as the Revolution progressed, and for the space of twenty years (from 1766 to 1786) the church was closed. During the war this church suffered very much from the destruction of the edifice itself, and of the tomb-stones and grounds in connection with it.

Among the old graves in the yard is one of very early date—a rude one—marked:

Here lyeth the body of James Allison, who departed this life Oct. the 2nd, 1727, aged 45 years.

Among others are several showing the poetical effusions prevalent in those early or olden times, as follows:

In Memory of Richard Taylor, deceased, Nov. ye 28th, 1732, aged 82 years.

My life is spent,  
My glass is run,  
To eternity my soul is gone.  
As I am now, so sure you'll be,  
Prepare therefore to follow me.

In Mem. of John, son of John and Eliz Barge, who dep. this life ye 27 of Dec. 1749. A. E. 7 yrs. 9 mos.

From death's arrest no age is free,  
Young children die and so must we;  
Reader, since minutes fly so fast,  
Improve the present as thy last.

Here lyeth the remains of John Barge, who departed this life June 5, A. D. 1755, aged 40 yrs. 7 mos. & 26 days.

Life is a cheat,  
And always show it,  
I thought so once,  
But now I know it.

The late Benjamin Jones, an esteemed citizen of Whitemarsh, who died in 1872, in the 76th year of his age, often told me that it was a well authenticated tradition in their family (he having been born in Montgomery township and of Welsh descent) that when the Welsh were examining the country with a view to making a permanent settlement, they made a tour through Whitemarsh, and came to the conclusion that the labor to clear the land would be too arduous on account of the heavy timber with which it was encumbered and the thick underbrush it contained, especially in the valley and along the Wissahickon creek. After a thorough search they passed on, and finally settled in and about Gwynedd or North Wales. And thus, on account of the fertility of the soil and the heavy forests, was lost to Whitemarsh some of the best people that ever settled in the colony. I have frequently heard from other old residents that the native forests of this township were very heavily timbered, and especially was this the fact in the valley between Militia and Edge Hills. The timber in the lowlands consisted of different kinds of oak, walnut, ash, maple, etc., and upon the hills bordering on the valley chestnut of fine and large growth grew in abundance.

The celebrated preacher, Rev. George Whitefield, visited this township during his tour through the colonies, as in his journal, published in 1756, he relates the following account of the trip:

"Set out, April 18, 1740, about 9 o'clock, for Whitemarsh, about 12 miles from Philadelphia. Had nearly forty horse in company before we reached the place. Preached to upwards of two thousand people, and perceived great numbers of them much melted down and brought under convictions, when I made free to them of Jesus and his benefits if they would believe on him; took a little refreshment at a Quaker's, baptised two children belonging to the Church of England at his house;



returned back to and preached at Germantown, with much of the Divine Presence, to near four thousand hearers."

Nicholas Scull, at one time Surveyor General of Pennsylvania, was, as we know, a resident of this township for some length of time. It is believed that he lived on the property now owned by the heirs of J. Gillingham Fell, Esq., situated in the east corner of the township, on Sandy run. As a surveyor he had few equals, and his knowledge of the Indian language made him quite an important personage at treaties, where he frequently officiated very ably. He was engaged with his brother, John Scull, as an interpreter by Governor Gordon, in May, 1728, at Conestoga, to hold a council with the Indians. In the same year he was sent to New Hanover township to allay a disturbance between several Indians and whites, which he successfully accomplished with presents for the former. In 1729 he was sent to Shamokin on a similar errand. Governor Thomas sent him to the Minesinks, up the Delaware, to settle a difficulty between an Indian and a white man named Henry Webb, in which the latter was wounded. He was commissioned Sheriff of Philadelphia in October, 1744, and continued for several years to perform the duties of the office.

About this time candidates commenced to set forth their claims for public support. This occurred in the person of Mordecai Lloyd, in 1744, begging the good people for their votes by his publications in German and English. At the same time Nicholas Scull, his opponent, and who was elected, apologized for the "new mode" he was compelled to resort to.—*Watson's Annals, Vol. 2, page 238.*

In June, 1748, upon the resignation of William Parsons, the Surveyor General of the colony, on account of ill health, Mr. Scull was appointed in his place, which office he held for thirteen years, until his death, which took place in 1761. His wife Abigail died May 21, 1753, in her 65th year, and was buried in the family burying-ground near Whitemarsh line, in Upper Dublin township, on Camp Hill. He published a map of his own surveys of the more improved parts of Maryland and Pennsylvania in 1759. His daughter, Mary Scull, married

William Biddle, whose son Edward served in the war of the Revolution, was a member of the Assembly, Speaker of the House, and member of Congress. His grandson, William Scull, published a large map of Pennsylvania in 1770, and became Deputy Surveyor General. Mr. Millett says that this Nicholas Scull was a brother of John, the overseer who came to Pennsylvania with Major Farmar; but this is questioned, as Buck is inclined to believe that he was a son of that Nicholas who came with Mr. Farmar, which is most likely to be correct. No grave-stone marks the resting place of Nicholas Scull, while one marked that of his wife. Some years ago, by some accident, it was broken off, and some relic hunter took it away, when it found its way to the archives of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, where it now is.

On the property owned by Lewis A. Lukens, of Conshohocken, adjoining the Williams school, is an old grave-yard that dates far back into the early days of the township, and has never to my knowledge been referred to by any one curious in old-time things. It contains the graves of quite a number of persons prominent in their day and generation. It was originally enclosed by a substantial wall, and of quite considerable size. The walls are at present in a dilapidated condition, and at some time, and probably in the near future, the walls may find their way into fences and buildings and the land be devoted to agricultural purposes, as it appears that none of the descendants give it any consideration or care. I will here give a list of those buried in the yard, as in a few years it may not be known who repose in its limits, viz.:

John Nichol Knight, died December 29, 1722, aged 40 years, 10 months.

Susanna Menan (child), died February 20, 1763.

Susanna Menan, died October 28, 1787, aged 71 years.

Sarah Menan, died December 12, 1796, aged 39 years.

John, son of Patrick and Susanna Menan, died at Penn's Neck, October 12, 1768, aged 25 years.

Patrick Menan, died February 5, 1791, aged 80 years.

Levi Trump, died November 8, 1784, aged 29 months.

Mary, wife of Jacob Siddon, died May 24, 1797, aged 26 years.

Bartle Bartleson, died February 17, 1777, aged 80 years.

Elizabeth Bartleson, died March 24, 1769, aged 60 years.

Cephas Bartleson, died September 15, 1783, in his 56th year.

Elizabeth Bartleson, died August 13, 1783, aged 43 years.

Susanna Bartleson, aged 1 year, 3 months.

George Bartleson, aged 9 months.

Margaret Heinch, died November 11, 1763 or 5.

Nicholas Knight, died November 7, 1787, aged 69 years.

J. K. (probably Knight), died 1758.

Elizabeth Coleman, died August 29, 1746, aged 68 years.

Catharine Coleman, died April 11, 1746, aged 3 years.

Elizabeth Coleman, died April 26, 1746, aged 19 months.

Christopher Mason, died December 3, 1780, aged 46 years.

Ann Mason, died May 6, 1802, in her 75th year.

Peter Mason, died October 30, 1804, aged 38 years.

Charles Bilger, died August 9, 1821, aged 6 years.

The above list comprises the graves that are marked with head-stones. There are quite a large number of unmarked graves, which can not now be known. I very well remember that about forty-three or four years ago, a German living in the lower part of Flouertown committed suicide by taking poison, and was buried close in the north corner of the yard. The name of the man I have forgotten. It is well known that persons of the name of Kline and a Geo. Heydrick are buried here. This was a burial place at least twenty-five years before any deed was executed for that purpose. I have the original deed of trust in my possession, wherein Samuel Farmar, son of Edward Farmar, conveys to Henry Bartleson, Peter Knight and James Stroud in company for  $\frac{1}{2}$  acre of land for a burying ground and place of worship. This deed is dated September 2, 1746, the consideration money being 5 pounds Pennsylvania currency. Patrick Menan, the eminent surveyor, scrivener and schoolmaster, wrote the deed and was one of the witnesses. Peter Knight, being the last surviving trustee, continued the trust to George Hocker, Nicholas Kline, Patrick Menan, Peter Bartleson and Bartle Bartleson, for the same object as contained

in the former deed. This declaration of trust is dated August 2, 1786.

Patrick Menan was an Irish gentleman of culture, and taught a classical school in the township; he is buried in the grave-yard hereinbefore mentioned, but the place where he taught is not known to the writer. Judge Porter, in his life of his grandfather, Gen. Andrew Porter, mentions that the General and Dr. Rittenhouse attended this school when boys, and walked all the way from Norriton, a distance of about 10 miles, to attend it, where the higher branches of education were taught. The Judge tells me that all he knows about Menan is what he describes in his grandfather's life. Our valued citizen, the venerable Alan W. Corson, could give us the history of this eminent surveyor and teacher, I am told, but at the age of 95 years this has become impossible. John Nicholas Knight, whose grave is marked with a curiously wrought stone, with lettering in quite old style both in spelling and form, lies in this yard. The stone is quite large and deeply paneled, and indicates a gentleman of wealth. His death occurred December 29, 1722, at the age of 40 years and 10 months, thus recording one of the oldest marked graves in the county, with few exceptions. The Bartlesons were of Whitemarsh, and probably resided on the place now occupied by C. A. Yeakle. The ground was purchased for a grave-yard and church, but the latter was never erected, probably on account of the church at Barren Hill having been built in the meantime.

Buck, I think, mentions that none of the name of Farmar now lives in the township. This is true; but many of his descendants of the names of Mitchell, Peirce, Robeson, Shoemaker and others live in Whitemarsh and adjacent townships. Robeson married a daughter of Edward Farmar, whose history will be given later.

By the year 1713 the country northward of Whitemarsh, extending to Worcester and Perkiomen, became filled with settlers to such an extent that they petitioned for an outlet to Philadelphia from Bebbertownship or Bebbertown to "Wide Marsh" or Farmar's Mill, originating the present Skippack

road. Bebbertownship embraced the country about the Skip-pack creek, in the direction of Skippackville. See S. W. Pennypacker's account of the settlement of Germantown, in the fifth volume of the *Pennsylvania Magazine of History*. The petition to the Quarter Sessions, in Philadelphia, June 2, 1713, is as follows:

"To the Court of Quarter Sessions, held in Philadelphia, June 2, 1713:

"The petition of the inhabitants of Skippack and several adjacent plantations in said county, Humbly sheweth, that whereas in the aforesaid township and neighborhood thereof, pretty many families are already settled, and probably not a few more to settle in and about the same, And as yet no road being laid out and established to accommodate your petitioners; but what paths have hitherto used are only upon suffrance, and liable to be fenced up—therefore your petitioners, both for the public good and their convenience, humbly desire an order for the laying out and establishing a road or cartway, from the upper end of the said township, down to the "wide marsh," or Farmer's Mill, which will greatly tend to the satisfaction of your petitioners, who shall thankfully acknowledge the favor, etc.

Dork Rosenberry,  
Henry Frey,  
Peter Wentz,  
Abraham Le Fevre,  
Gerard Dehaven,  
Claus Janson,  
John Kreg,  
Gerard Clements,  
James Been,  
Peter Bow,  
Andrew Schrager,  
Henry Pannebecker,  
Johannes Umstead,  
Johannes Kolb,  
Jacob Gaetschalk,

Lorentz Sweitzer,  
Matthias Tyson,  
Jacob Kolb,  
William Renberry,  
Thomas Kentworthy,  
Herman Kuster,  
Martin Kolb,  
Johannes Sholl,  
Henry Kolb,  
Jacob Op de Graff,  
Peter Sellen,  
Daniel Dismant,  
Herman Indehoven,  
John Newberry."

The only names written in English were those of Matthias Tyson, Jacob Kolb and John Newberry; all the others were in German. The road was laid out upon this petition, but not giving satisfaction, another jury was appointed to review the same. Whereupon Edward Farmer, Nicholas Scull, James

Shadreck, John Roadley, Robert Jones and Heinrick Sellen were appointed, and confirmed the former view; this was signed February 26, 1714, accompanied with a draft, as follows:

"That this is the true return of the road from Skippack creek, in Bebbertownship, by Edward Farmar's mill, into the North Wales road; bearing in course from the Skippack creek 380 perches, varying from southeast seven degrees easterly, thence due southeast 2,820 perches except two small variations. Signed MATHEW ZIMMERMAN."

The draft of the Skippack road is in the possession of my friend, the Hon. Jones Detwiler, of Whitpain, whose industry in hunting up old matters relating to the local history of our county will be of great use in the future to the historian who may want material in writing the history of the olden time. His critical investigations in matters of this kind can be relied upon, as the subject of his researches are authentic and maturely considered; just what is necessary in an historian, who never draws upon his imagination, but dots down facts as they come in his way.

The Free Society of Traders of Pennsylvania, owned land in Whitemarsh on the east side of the Skippack road; this appears from an act of Assembly, passed March 25th, 1724. By this same act the trustees, Charles Read, Job Goodson, Evan Owen, George Fitzwater and Joseph Pidgeon, were appointed to sell the lands of the society; and in fulfilling the trust, did sell to John Jones, Sr., of Philadelphia, *Boulter*, six hundred acres of land lying on the east side of the Skippack road. This plot of the society's lands contained 20,000 acres, and was un-located at the time of the passage of the act of Assembly, when the trustees directed Jacob Taylor, the Surveyor General of the province, to locate and lay off the six hundred acres to the above mentioned John Jones, Sr. The deed to Jones was executed April 4, 1724. Jones, by his will, dated 14th day of 5th month, 1742, demised to his son, John the younger, 310 acres of this tract, lying on the east side of the Wissahickon creek, who on the 2d day of May, 1760, sold 20¾ acres to Abraham Houser for thirty-nine pounds and

five shillings. This last transfer is still in the possession of one of his descendants, Abram H. Carn, and located in the village of Fort Washington, on the North Pennsylvania Railroad. While the British occupied this part of Pennsylvania, Houser, for the better safety of his deed, buried it in his cow stable, and by this means it became so much defaced and the writing obliterated to such an extent that the heirs of Jones executed a release for the purpose of making his title good and intelligible. How much of the society's land was located in Whitemarsh, I am unable to say at this time, but it could scarcely reach 2,000 acres, as all on the west side of the Skip-pack and Church roads was granted to Major Farmar, as previously stated.

I committed an error by saying that the Scull burying-ground was located in Upper Dublin, close to the Whitemarsh line; it should say close to the Springfield line in Whitemarsh on Camp Hill.

The history of Whitemarsh would be incomplete without that of Plymouth Meeting in part, as half of the members of the meeting were residents in this township. The line separating the two townships passes through the grounds of the yard front of the venerable old pile, leaving the building and grave-yard in Plymouth. All the country around, both in Whitemarsh and Plymouth, was settled by Friends or Quakers, and in a measure to the exclusion of other denominations. This meeting was settled at a very early day, probably earlier than any within the limits of the present county of Montgomery, with the exception of the Welsh settlements in Merion.

Smith, the historian of the Friends, in writing of the antiquity of the place, says: "Plymouth meeting-house was built a considerable time before this (Gwynedd in 1698), and a meeting for worship held here as at this day. The said meeting was in being the 4th of 1st month, 1688 (March, 1689, N. S.), and how long before is not certain."

There is a slight discrepancy between Smith and the minute-book quoted below, which latter is unquestionably correct.

In the minutes of the Gwynedd Monthly Meeting, of which Plymouth Preparative formed a part, I find an entry of a minute in the commencement giving an account of the early settlement and origin of this meeting, and the reasons therefor. These minutes, which are in the care of Isaac Roberts, of Spring Mill, I have examined. They are as follows:

"About the year 1685 the township of Plymouth was originally purchased and settled by James Fox, Richard Gove, Francis Rawle, John Chelson, and some other Friends that came from Old England, who dwelt here for some space of time, and keep meetings for worship at the house of the said James Fox, but being most of them tradesmen and citizens and not used to country life, removed to Philadelphia, by which means the place became vacant for a time. But it was again purchased, chiefly by Friends, viz: David Meredith, Edmund Cartledge, Thomas Owen, Isaac Price, Ellis Pugh, Hugh Jones, and divers others; also several adjacent settlers in Whitemarsh, viz.: John Rhoads, Abraham Daws and David Williams, and several more Friends. These, in the year 1703, by the approbation of Havorford Monthly Meeting unto which they then joined themselves, kept their meetings for worship at the house aforesaid, being then in possession of Hugh Jones, where it continued for some years, and then by consent was removed to John Cartledge's house, where it also remained for some years. But settlements continuing and young people coming up, it was agreed to build a meeting house for the better accommodation of Friends belonging thereunto, as also ye conveniency of a public place of worship near the burying place which was perfect some time before in Plymouth aforesaid, and several deceased Friends being there interred before the meeting-house was built. And in the year — the meeting-house was erected, and on the thirteenth day of the — month, the first meeting was kept therein; and our number increasing, and not having the conveniency of a monthly meeting among ourselves, we joined with Gwynedd Friends to apply to Havorford Monthly Meeting for their approbation to hold a monthly meeting of business. The whole, together with the concurrence of the Quarterly Meeting of Philadelphia, was obtained."

The first monthly meeting of Gwynedd, of which Plymouth Preparative formed a part, was held at Gwynedd on the 22d of Twelfth-month, 1714-5, and from the minutes of this



meeting it is stated that Plymouth Friends produced a record of their Preparative to be inserted in the minute book, and, among other matters, they mention that they have built a meeting-house for public worship. Thus it appears that the house was built not later than the date given in the old minute book.

The minutes are interspersed with numerous presentations of the transgressions of its members, and the settlement of the difficulties which are common to the frailties of human nature, which required the care of the overseers, and were dealt with according to the discipline of the society. In none were they more watchful than in the question of human slavery. While the Quarterly Meeting of Philadelphia bore strong testimony against the institution in the early part of the last century, there were those still who would violate the wholesome rule, and would incur the displeasure of those who had the morals and good order under their charge. I find that Thomas Lancaster, the elder, a large land owner in Whitemarsh, for purchasing a negro slave, was presented to the Monthly Meeting by Plymouth Friends, on the 31st of Seventh-month, 1759. He answered by saying that he was not aware that he was acting contrary to the discipline, and after some considerable delay he gave satisfaction that he became convinced that he had committed an error, and gave the assurance that he would never purchase a slave again, which finally ended the affair. William Trotter, an eminent preacher among the Quakers, was an early resident of Whitemarsh, and died in the latter part of 1757. 'Squire Boone, and Mary, his wife, passed this Monthly Meeting, 28th of Fourth-Month, 1720. This was the father of Col. Daniel Boone, the great explorer and trapper of Kentucky, Missouri, etc.

Before leaving the minutes, we will notice an item or two in relation to the internal government of the society. In the year 1775, a committee was appointed to ascertain the exact number of slaves then belonging to the members of Plymouth Meeting.

The following report was presented:

"To the meeting to be held at Gwynedd, 25th of Seventh-month, 1775:

"We, the committee appointed by the meeting to visit such of our members as are possessors of slaves and detaining them in bondage, contrary to the good and wholesome rule of our Yearly Meeting, agreeably to our appointment we proceeded on ye service and visited such of our members that are under that circumstance that we know of, which are eight in number, who are possessors of sixteen negroes and one mulatto."

The committee then go on and say that one justified the holding of slaves in bondage, whilst others intended to set them free in a short time, some when they arrived at eighteen or twenty-one years of age and after teaching them to read and write, and one, a negro girl, seventeen years old, whom her mistress said she intended to do her best by. The testimony of the Friends against slavery dates from the quite early days of the colony. As early as the 18th of Second-month, 1688, the German Quakers of Germantown entered their solemn protest against the system of slavery to the Monthly Meeting of Germantown, being the first protest against the institution of human bondage that was ever uttered on our continent. This was more than fifty years before Rev. George Whitefield, the great revivalist, was shaking the foundations of the established order of things in the English colonies, and who advocated the righteousness of enslaving the African race for the purpose of christianizing them; and long before Benjamin Lay, the cynic christian philosopher, bore earnest testimony against its inhumanity.

The late S. M. Corson, a resident of Whitemarsh, in the Norristown *Herald* of recent date, says of the trial of the Quakers in the Revolution: "The war of the Revolution was a sore trial to the Friends, and we find the record of disownment of several who took up arms in defence of their country; but, contrary to their fundamental doctrine of peace, obedience to their testimony against war and fighting caused many Friends to be classed with the Tories."

The village of Plymouth has a very early existence. William Penn, as early as the 14th of Fourth-month, 1691, among other matters to Thomas Lloyd, writes: "Salute me to the Welsh Friends, and the Plymouth Friends; indeed, to all of them." Thus at this day the settlement was numerous enough to receive the attention of the founder of Pennsylvania. Three-fourths of the village is located within Whitemarsh township. As already noticed, the old Germantown and Perkiomen turnpike was located upon the "cart road." It will be remembered that the cart road was laid out upon petition to councils of James Fox, Second-month, 1687. On Holmes' Map of original surveys the township line is marked as a public road extending the entire length on its northwestern border, forming cross-roads at the meeting-house by the opening of this cart way.

It appears that no deed was ever given for the ground on which the meeting-house stands; but one was granted after 1701 to the Friends from the Dickinson property on the Plymouth side for four acres, upon which the grave-yard is located and the Orthodox meeting-house is built immediately adjoining on the west side. The southwestern end of this ancient house was built in 1714-15; the other, or northeastern end, was built in 1780, and at first used for school purposes, but shortly afterwards for worship, as the room became necessary. This building was burned in 1868, but immediately rebuilt in the same plain and substantial manner as before the fire.

The year 1690 marks the earliest dates of births and deaths in the old minute-books of the Monthly Meeting, the first birth recorded being that of a Dickinson.

The late S. M. Corson, in a paper read before the Historical Society of Montgomery County, says:

"The Swedes who had settled along the Delaware in accordance with the plan of the great Gustavus, had pushed up along the Schuylkill. At what is now the village of Plymouth they had enclosed a grave-yard in the forest. This being the only place of interment for the dead of that vicinity, it was so used by the Friends."

In the old minute-book, previously quoted, it is stated that prior to the meeting-house the burial place had been perfected. This, in a measure, may confirm what Mr. Corson says of the Swedes' occupation. E. M., in the *North Wales Record*, asserts the same thing. It is supposed that John Cartledge's house, where meetings were held, was the same afterwards owned by a Mr. Dull, and next by Daniel O. Hitner, on the west side of the cart road. In the old portion of the graveyard is a stone to the memory of Matthew Colly, who died March 3, 1722, aged 55 years, thus proving by this head-stone that the original burial place was not commenced by Friends, but by those of other denominations interred in that part of the yard.

The name of Colly occurs among the records of St. Thomas' parish. The celebrated John Fothergill, an English Friend, preached upon two different occasions at this place when he visited America—the first time “on 15th of the 12th month, 1721, and the second time on the 27th day of 10th month, 1736.” See *Life of Fothergill*, in *Friends' Library*, Vol. III, page 381, etc.

This old place of worship bears evidence of substantial ease and comfort for all who worship within its walls. Its large and roomy grounds, stables, and great trees, together with the plain but comfortable seating room, puts every one at his ease who frequents the place, which so distinctly characterizes their places of meeting.

As matter of curiosity, and to show how the old surveyors in primitive times designated lines, I will quote from an old deed granting 5327 acres, containing all of Plymouth township, to David Meredith, Edmund Cartledge, Thomas Owen, Isaac Price, Ellis Pugh, Hugh Jones, and others. It follows:

“Whereas, there is a certain tract of land called Plymouth township; beginning at a birch tree, marked, standing by the river Schuylkill, being a corner dividing it from the land first laid out to Jaspar Farmar; thence by an old line of marked trees, northeast, 1296 perches (four miles), to a marked white oak, standing in Whitpain township; thence by an old line of marked trees, northwest, 643 perches,” etc.

The white oak here mentioned was cut down recently. How few who passed this tree knew its history, and that it was marked for a corner between Plymouth and Whitpain and for the northwestern line of Whitemarsh, and at the same time stood probably two perches from the latter line. The road passing from Chestnut Hill to Gwynedd Meeting, through Lancasterville, was known in the olden time as the Welsh road. It was at the intersection of this road and the Plymouth and Broad Axe turnpike where this tree stood. How many of the inhabitants living north and west, in passing this tree on their way to or from Philadelphia for nearly the past two hundred years, knew of the important position it held in local history.

From deeds in possession of Dr. Leedom, of Plymouth, we find that John Maulsby in 1699 bought up all the land in the east corner diagonally across from the meeting-house, extending to the village of Cold Point, embracing what now are the properties of the late George Corson and David Marple, of the late Elias Hicks Corson, and all the small properties from there to Cold Point, and probably some other small properties adjoining on the south side of these.

Extensive lime operations have been conducted upon this property from the earliest times. Since the opening of the Plymouth railroad through this section, the business has increased very extensively, and gives employment to quite a number of operatives. Great quantities of lime are sold in the Philadelphia markets, while much of it is used in the country northward from this place for agricultural purposes.

The Lancasters were large land-owners in Whitemarsh as early as the middle of the last century, in and around Lancasterville. They were Friends. Thomas Lancaster, the elder, was the first one of the name who settled in the township. The farms of Peter Cambel, Robert Maguire, J. Wilson Jones, George B. Cambel, Isaac E. Shallcross, and the intervening small properties and the property of the late Wilson family, were owned by the Lancasters. The village of Lancasterville took its name from this family. This is an old

place, noted for its activity in the manufacture of lime in former times. The large quarries and numerous old and abandoned kilns attest its former industry, but since the building of the Plymouth railroad immediately below the village, the lime operations have all been moved in close proximity to the railroad for better facilities for shipping.

Among the largest operators in lime burning in Whitemarsh fifty or sixty years ago was John Cox, Sr., who lived upon and owned the property of Robert Maguire, and died at this place probably forty-five years ago. I have frequently heard it said of him that when he commenced the business the store-keepers would not trust him to a pound of tobacco. He began with a cart and one horse, and by great perseverance and industry soon established such a credit that they were quite willing to trust him. In course of time he accumulated quite a large property in and around this village. Beside the Maguire place, he owned Peter Campel's place, above the gap on Militia hill. In connection with the farm, a hotel had been kept many years in the past, and only a few years ago Mr. Cambel removed the sign post and the hotel was abandoned. Mr. Cox raised a family of seventeen children, none of whom live in the township, and only one grandson, Charles A. Cox, who still remains, and is extensively engaged in manufacturing lime on the Plymouth railroad.

Lancasterville, in its palmy days, was known by the name of "Wrangletown," from the frequent quarrels and fights which would take place at elections, sales, or after pay days. Frequent pugilistic encounters, produced by the too frequent use of liquor, would take place at such times among the operatives in the quarries. But in this respect the village of "Wrangletown" is changed in morals as well as in its name.

Before the Revolution, the voters of Philadelphia county were compelled to cast their votes at the public inn opposite the State House on Chestnut street. By the act of Assembly passed June 14, 1777, the electors of Whitemarsh and all adjoining townships were required to deposit their ballots at the public house of Jacob Coleman, in Germantown. The

townships of Whitemarsh, Springfield, Cheltenham, Abington, Moreland, Horsham, Upper Dublin, Gwynedd, Montgomery, Towamencin, Hatfield, Franconia and Lower Salford, were, by an act of Assembly, passed September 13, 1785, immediately after the erection of Montgomery county, required to hold their elections at the public house of George Eckhart, in the village of Whitemarsh, known then and until lately as the Blue House. By an act of the Legislature of March 31, 1797, Whitemarsh, Springfield, Upper Dublin and Horsham were constituted an election district, and all of them voted at the Blue House. When I cast my first vote in 1846, which was when I arrived at the age of twenty-one, it was at this place, and the only township voting with us at that time was Springfield. The following year we were separated from Springfield, and the voters of Whitemarsh held their election at the public house of Samuel Culp, Barren Hill, in the western end of the township. Since the adoption of the Constitution of 1873, the township has been divided into two election districts, the East and West, the West still voting at the house of the late Samuel Culp, and the East at the Clifton House, formerly known as the Sandy Run Hotel.

A few years ago, when the Hon. William H. Witte became the owner of the Blue House, he had the sign post removed and converted the building into tenements, and so it remains to this day. This building stands opposite and somewhat above the lime kilns of T. and J. Wentz, on the Chestnut Hill and Springhouse turnpike. This place was the scene of quite a disturbance in 1804 or 1805, growing out of the widening of the old Bethlehem road and building the Chestnut Hill and Springhouse turnpike. The company and their employes were prohibited by the land owners from entering upon their properties for widening and building the road. The feeling of the land owners became so intense that they resisted any invasion of their property with shot guns, muskets, and anything they could procure to effect their purpose; but after baffling the company some time, and probably becoming weary of watching, the company's employes entered in the

night time, and by persevering and energetic work, tore down the fences and commenced operations, and by daylight had so far advanced that the land owners abandoned their hostility, and the work went on to completion.

The Bethlehem road was the same public highway heretofore noticed as the great road to North Wales. By an act of Assembly, passed March 5, 1804, the Chestnut Hill and Springhouse turnpike was incorporated, being eight miles in length, and was completed in the following year, wholly by subscription, at a cost of \$70,000, or \$8,750 per mile. It was the great stage route from Philadelphia to Bethlehem and Easton, and the outlet between the two points for the inhabitants living along it, and at the same time affording them a way of getting their produce to the city. Before the time of railroads, the travel on this road was very great, and required a number of public houses for the accommodation of the teams and travelers who crowded this thoroughfare. Many of the younger generation now using this road still wonder why so many hotels were built along its line. They would not had they seen the crowded condition of the hotels in those days, when one could scarcely pass many of them on account of the yard being filled and even the road in front of them, especially was this the case on market days. Many a jolly scene was enacted in those days antedating railroads; hotel keeping then was quite a different business from what it is now. This I have seen in my time. The landlord would devote his time and attention to marketmen and travelers, in making them comfortable and feel at home, and thus "mine host" was a power in the land. But to return to the Blue House. Among the landlords of this old hostelry were George Eckhart; a Mr. Bubing, who afterwards kept the Fountain Inn at Barren Hill at the commencement of this county; Philip Sellers, at one time sheriff of Montgomery county, and likewise owner of the farm of the late Henry Dickinson, on the Skippack road; Jacob W. Haines, who owned and kept it many years; Joseph Bush, and others. Mr. Haines was postmaster at this place, it being the Whitemarsh post-office, but just before his



death the office was moved to the toll gate in the immediate vicinity; it was changed to the village of Fort Washington about twelve years ago, and Abram H. Carn appointed post master, where it still remains. The Blue House is owned by Charles Otterson, of Philadelphia, at the present time, as well as the old Farmar mill property immediately above.

The comfortable residence of Franklin A. and Samuel W. Comly in Valley Green was built about the year 1804 or 5, at the time of making the turnpike, by Peter Dager for a hotel. When the Messrs. Comly purchased the property, the inn was removed, and the building changed into a large and beautiful residence. This property was part of the estate of the Hon. Morris Longstreth, deceased, and contains about 160 or 170 acres of the best land in the valley. Mr. Dager was a large owner of real estate in the township in his day. In 1801, Henry Daub built the Sandy run hotel, now owned by Charles Otterson, of Philadelphia. This is now known as the Clifton House, and did quite a large business in its day. Mr. Daub likewise owned the mill immediately opposite, now owned by Albert Conard, and changed into an auger factory. Immediately above, not 100 yards, is the old Sandy run bridge, built in 1792 by the Commissioners of Montgomery county, over which the turnpike road passes. Just above the bridge, at the junction of the Morris road and the turnpike, and upon the same spot now occupied by the Masonic hall, stood an old inn which was taken down by William Hirst, and in place of it erected the Fort Washington House, about 50 yards north of the old location. Fort Washington is an outgrowth of the North Pennsylvania Railroad, and is becoming quite an important village.

In reference to the destruction of Plymouth meeting-house by fire, it is stated to have occurred in 1858; it should be 1868.

The Wissahickon creek rises near Lansdale, in Montgomery township, and flows in a generally southerly course and enters the township at the north corner, and runs in the same direction, entering Springfield township near the old Germantown and Perkiomen turnpike road, and thence continuing in

the same general course until it empties itself into the Schuylkill below Manayunk.

In the early days of the province, the Wissahickon was noted as a mill stream, and numerous mills were erected along its course, principally engaged in what was then known as merchant work. But since the age of canals and railroads, this is all changed, as the opening of the park road within the limits of Philadelphia has been the cause of the removal of the mills from the city limits, and driven the business elsewhere.

Flourtown, in the adjoining township of Springfield, derived its name from its being noted in the early times for its heavy transactions in the wheat trade. All the country north and westward would centre here, and the millers living along the Wissahickon would come here to procure their stock for business; lively transactions would be carried on at times as the market fluctuated, and frequently to the satisfaction of the farmers. On Holmes' Map of Original Surveys, it is called "Whitpain's Creek," in honor of Richard Whitpain, a Quaker, and a large land owner on the stream, in the present township of Whitpain, after whom the township was named, and the founder of the great house in Philadelphia, mentioned by Watson in his Annals, which endangered adjoining buildings so much that it had to be taken down.

Wissahickon is an Indian name, and according to Heckewelder, the Indian narrator, it signifies the "Catfish stream," or the stream of the "Yellow water."

Four mills had been built upon the Wissahickon in this township before the Revolution, as may be seen on old maps of the time. Daniel Morris owned the present Flues mill at the time of the Revolution, afterwards owned by Joseph Lukens, and now by Eberhard Flues, who changed it into a manufactory of woollen goods, etc., but it has not been in operation for some time. The next is the old Farmar mill so well known in the olden time, and the oldest one in the township. In the petition to court for laying out the Skippack road, June 2, 1713, the mill was already built, as in the petition this mill is made the southern terminus at its junction with the Great

road to North Wales, etc. This is the oldest date I have seen of the erection of this old mill, by six years; it was undoubtedly erected before this time, but how long I am unable to say. After the death of Edward Farmar it passed to the Morris family—Samuel and Joshua Morris—and thence to Joshua Morris' son-in-law, Isaac Mather; his son, Joseph Mather, built the present structure. It was noted in its day as one of the finest mills in this section of the country. He likewise built the large mansion house, which still shows evidence of his taste and judgment in the matter of building both as to convenience and durability. After his death it passed to William Miller, who owned it only a short time, and then to Samuel W. Comly, who conducted milling for some time, and then sold it to William H. Witte, and from him to Charles Otterson, the present owner.

In the year 1837, this property was visited by a terrible tornado, unroofing the buildings, twisting off the tops of the fine trees about the place, and carrying them a great distance in the direction of Camp Hill. Eye witnesses still living declare that the force of the whirlwind was so great that it carried the water out of the dam in a solid spiral column to a great height. I frequently heard persons, who were present, say they saw the bottom of the dam. The fish were scattered about the neighboring fields. Joseph Mather was the owner at this time; he was the only sufferer, as it did not extend any great length; its course was from west to east. What was strange about the tornado was that it spent all its violence in a measure upon this place.

The next mill below, now owned by Chalkley Ambler, was built about the time of the Revolution, as I well remember about forty-two or forty-three years ago the first mill was removed to make way for the present one. The old mill stood square to the creek, and was a long and low building, and presented, at the time of its removal, quite an antiquated appearance. The present one was built by the late John Shafer. In the beginning of this century it was owned by Gen. Scheetz and Daniel Hitner, and then by Scheetz's son-in-law, Jonathan

Wentz, who carried on quite an extensive business in milling and lime burning, he then owning the kilns now owned by Samuel Yeakle, of Norristown. At Wentz's death, John Shafer became the owner, as above mentioned; he sold to Isaac Yeakle, and he again to Jacob Day, of Springfield, from whose hands it passed to Joseph B. Comly, who owned it about thirty years, and then sold to William Ambler, at whose death it passed to his brother Chalkley.

The mill known at the time as the Robeson or Dewees mill, and now owned by Silas Cleaver, was built long before the Revolution. The first owner after Farmar was Peter Robeson, and then his son, Jonathan Robeson, who occupied the place many years, together with the farms of the late Peter Phipps and that of Thomas S. Phipps, when it passed into the hands of William Dewees. Both Jonathan Robeson and William Dewees were Justices of the Peace in Whitemarsh in their time, and among the list of land-owners of the township in 1734. Nicholas Kline became owner about or before the commencement of this century. He built the present mill at this place, it being the second one erected at the location. Kline was a large owner of real estate in Whitemarsh and in Springfield, and died before 1820, and was buried in the Lukens' burying ground, before noticed. After Kline came Daniel Morgan, followed by Daniel Bickel, and then Henry W. Schultz followed for a short time; his heirs sold the mill to Silas Cleaver, the present owner, thirty-four years ago, who has carried on the business quite successfully. This is probably the finest mill in the township at this time. Within the last year a steam engine has been added to its motive power, the first one in the township.

The Wissahickon has been the scene of many a law suit for nearly a century, but since the introduction of turbine wheels the contention has entirely ceased. Charges of raising the dams and creating back water, and interfering with the water marks, led to heavy litigation, and not unfrequently bringing whole neighborhoods into contention and bad feeling,

and innuring to no ones benefit but to fill the pockets of the lawyers, who enjoyed the fun at the expense of the litigants.

The Sandy Run, the largest tributary of the Wissahickon, enters the township at the eastern corner, and runs in a north-westerly direction, and flows into the Wissahickon below Fort Washington. This stream is a very constant and at the same time an important tributary to the water power of the Wissahickon. The water is very clear, and consists principally of spring water. Two mills are propelled by it in Whitemarsh, and another immediately over the line in the township of Springfield. The mill now owned by Albert Conard and turned into an auger manufactory by the present owner, is an ancient mill, having been in existence at or before the Revolution, as I find on military maps of that time that it is marked John Edge's mill. The name Edge occurs frequently among the records of Plymouth Meeting before the Revolution. I am unable to give the owners in regular order, but it is well known that Henry Daub, before mentioned, owned it for some length of time, and it then passed to George Kenderdine, and from him to William Ball, of Quakertown, who sold it to Albert Conard, the present owner. At this place the Conard auger is made, which has acquired an enviable reputation among mechanics of all classes.

In the first quarter of this century an exciting affair took place at Sandy Run, at the office of Henry Daub, who was a Justice of the Peace, and lived in the same house now the residence of Albert Conard. By the side of the race of the Detwiler mill, now Edward Plumley's, in Upper Dublin, stood a hut occupied by a negro named Black Bill, where a fugitive slave had secreted himself. It becoming known, the officers of the law arrested him and forthwith took him before Squire Daub for commitment to jail for safe keeping until his master could come for him and prove his property. It becoming noised about, quite a number of neighbors collected, and among them some Abolitionists. While the magistrate was preparing the commitment, the slave, who was lying on the bank outside of the house, was urged by the Abolitionists to

run for his life. They pointed out the direction for him to take. He at once put off with all the effort he could make, toward the Wissahickon creek, which when reached he plunged into and soon was safe on the western side, and thus secured his liberty, as nothing was ever heard of him afterwards. Quite a forest existed at the Wissahickon on both sides in those days, which added much to his safety in gaining his freedom. There are persons still living in the neighborhood who can recall this incident.

Some thirty years ago an incident of a similar nature took place further down the creek, of which I have personal knowledge. J. Miller McKim, the distinguished abolitionist, sent a fugitive from labor to Peter Phipps (now John Cleaver's) for the purpose of putting him through to Canada, on the underground railroad. The slave arrived in the night at this place, and next day Mr. Phipps collected some fifteen or twenty dollars for the purpose of sending the slave on his way. This amount was easily obtained in the immediate vicinity. I had the pleasure to aid in this transaction. What appeared strange in this matter was that, among the contributors to this fund, were some who apparently opposed doing anything to aid the slave on his way to freedom, yet, as in this case, they would often willingly give financial assistance, though it would be done in a clandestine manner. That night Mr. Phipps had the slave taken from his barn and conveyed through the underground railroad by way of Reading.

The other mill on the Sandy Run, is situated in the east corner of the township, and upon what was known as Scull's in the quite early days of the province. The mill was built in the year 1769, by Henry Scheetz, for a paper mill, and operated as such until comparatively recent times. He likewise built an addition to it shortly afterward for grinding grists and doing general country work, and for which both buildings are now used. The mill in Springfield, over the line, was likewise built for paper making by Mr. Scheetz, but it is supposed at a somewhat later date. This latter mill passed to his son Justice

Scheetz, at one time sheriff of Montgomery county, and still remains in the family.

The Scheetzes of our county trace their descent from Dr. Johann Jacob Schut (since changed to Scheetz), a native and resident of Crefeld in Germany on the Rhine, near the borders of Holland. He was one of the original purchasers of the Frankford Company that settled "ye Germantown," which was organized in 1683. Dr. Schutz never came to America. Tradition has it that he was a minister, and that a son of his, named Henry, came over and settled first at Germantown and afterwards in Whitemarsh. It is not known, I believe, whether he settled on any part of the 428 acres of land his father had purchased in the German land company. At all events, this Henry had a son, Henry Scheetz, who became quite an active and useful citizen, and inherited his father's place on the Sandy Run, and built the mills as mentioned above, where he carried on paper making and milling. Before the Revolution he was appointed a justice of the peace by the Crown, and continued as such after the state government was established. Upon the organization of Montgomery county, September 10, 1784, Mr. Scheetz was appointed one of the associate judges of the new county, and one of the incorporators and director of the Union school at Whitemarsh. He died in the latter part of 1793 or beginning of 1794. He had two sons, Henry and Justice, the latter the sheriff, as previously stated. Henry, the eldest son, became quite a prominent citizen and took an active part in the affairs of the county. To those living in our township his life would be interesting, and will be given place here.

He was born in 1761, on the Sandy Run, at the old homestead, and in his youth received a common school education. He married Elizabeth, daughter of George Hocker, of Whitemarsh. He had quite a taste for military life, and we find him commanding the Montgomery brigade in the Freas rebellion in Lehigh county in 1798, and ever afterwards retained a fondness for military affairs. When he arrived on the scene of action the "war" was over; he returned home with his troops and disbanded them.

General Scheetz was one of the County Commissioners in 1799, when the fine stone bridge over the Perkiomen creek on the Reading road was built. He was elected one of the Representatives to the Assembly by Montgomery county in 1805, and in 1811 was elected a Director of the Poor for the county. Governor Snyder, in 1812, commissioned him one of the Major Generals of the state militia. He entered the service at Marcus Hook, and with his command protected the DuPont powder works, at Wilmington, about the time the British General Ross was threatening Baltimore. After General Ross' failure at Fort McHenry, the militia were recalled and disbanded, and never afterwards called into service.

General Scheetz was a candidate for the State Senate in 1824, but was defeated by a few votes by Benjamin Reiff, his competitor. In 1830 he was appointed one of the commissioners to view and lay out the State road from New Hope through Norristown to the Maryland state line. He was a member of the convention to revise the state constitution, in 1837, from Montgomery county. General Scheetz was a member of the Reformed Church, and always took an active part in the affairs of the congregation, and when the Union Church at Whitemarch was organized, in 1818, no one took a more active part than he. He was engaged in the manufacture of paper and farming upon the property he inherited from his father. In the latter years of his life, after accumulating a competency, he retired from business and moved to the property now occupied by Samuel Van Winkle, Jr., in Valley Green, where he died September 4, 1848, nearly eighty-four years of age. He was buried in Union Church grave-yard, where a handsome monument is erected to his memory. In politics he was a Democrat, and wielded great influence in the county in his party.

General Scheetz was twice married. His first wife died in 1825, at the age of fifty-six. He married the second time, the widow of Peter Dager, of the same township, some years afterwards. He left nine children, all by his first wife. His



descendants have become quite numerous. Among them are the names of Scheetz, Hitner, Sechler, Wentz, Acuff, etc.

M. Auge, in his "Lives of Eminent Men of Montgomery County" says of General Scheetz, which, as I remember, is correct: "In person the General was tall and stoutly built, of dark complexion, but not black hair; dignified and manly in bearing, and wielding a marked influence in his party and on the general public till the time of his death."

The Friends' meeting-house, and dwelling attached, with two acres and eighty perches of land, situated on the east side of the Chestnut Hill and Springhouse turnpike road, below the Clifton House, were conveyed by Joshua Morris, of Abington township, to Joseph Lukens, Isaac Mather, John Wilson, Thomas White Pryor, Joseph Jeanes, Thomas Lancaster, Jr., and Jesse Trump, of Whitemarsh, and Jesse Cleaver of Upper Dublin township, in trust, to Gwynedd Monthly Meeting, for a meeting-house and burial ground, forever. The meeting-house and dwelling were erected about twenty or twenty-five years ago for the purpose of retaining possession, as indicated in the deed. By the original title I find that the consideration was five shillings. The conveyance was executed Sixth-month 23d, 1791. Meetings are occasionally held at this place.

By a deed executed Second-month 25th, 1815, John Wilson, Jesse Trump, Thomas White Pryor and Jesse Cleaver, surviving trustees, continued the trust to Joseph Mather, David Wilson, Knowles Lancaster, Isaac Williams, Jr., and Isaac Jeanes, of Whitemarsh, Charles Mather, of Whitpain, Jacob Albertson, of Plymouth, and Jonathan Thomas, of Upper Dublin; and said trust was continued Second-month 23d, 1847, by Knowles Lancaster, sole surviving trustee, to William Longstreth, Charles Williams, Joseph Jeanes, Ellis Cleaver, Thomas Livezey, Daniel Foulke, John L. Jones and Henry Jones.

Joshua Morris, of Abington, was the oldest brother of Samuel Morris, of Whitemarsh, and upon the death of the latter, in 1772, who died intestate and without issue, all his estate in Whitemarsh, containing 350 acres of land, the greater

part now owned by the heirs of the late Jacob Wentz, and other adjoining properties, descended to Joshua, according to law. Samuel Morris had left an instrument of writing, purporting to be a will, but not signed, by which he gave a piece of land for the use of the neighborhood for a Protestant school. The community to be benefited by his munificence was to embrace one and a half miles around the school house. This takes in a large part of Whitemarsh, a portion of Springfield and a small part of Upper Dublin. The school house and dwelling attached were built shortly after the death of the donor, upon the east side of the then great road to North Wales, now the above named turnpike, and adjoining the present public school lot. The lot of ground upon which the school house is located contains 110 perches of land. The intention of the donor was fully carried out by his brother Joshua. This school, known as the Union school, continued to be used as such until the year 1869, when the directors of Whitemarsh built the present elegant building adjoining for school purposes; thus the old building became abandoned as a school, and the trustees remodeled the old edifice and dwelling in a substantial manner, and is now known as Lyceum Hall, and principally used for lectures, concerts, etc.

Mr. Morris, in addition to the ground, donated £530, Pennsylvania currency, in trust, the interest only to be used for school purposes, building and keeping the house in repair. At some time afterward, a certain Mr. Ulrich living in the vicinity donated \$33.33 in addition to that of Mr. Morris.

In compliance with the unsigned will of Samuel Morris, his brother conveyed the property and donation by deed dated January 13, 1773, to John Cleaver, of Upper Dublin, Thomas Lancaster, Joseph McClain, Jacob Edge, Joseph Lukens and Henry Scheetz, Esq. (father of General Henry Scheetz), of Whitemarsh, in trust. The trustees were annually elected down to the present time. In pursuance of an Act of the General Assembly, the school was incorporated May 12, 1797. Upon an examination of the first minute of the trustees, I find the first portion torn out, and thus when the school was opened

cannot be ascertained. The first entry in the old minute book is dated the 11th of Fourth-month, 1791, but it evidently was opened some years before. The first master (as he is called) was Ezekiel Hill, who taught a number of years; Thomas Livezey, Esq., who was a justice of the peace of Whitemarsh, and Francis Murphy, an Irish refugee of 1798, taught about the time of the war of 1812, and at Williams' as late as 1845 and '46. Some years after him came Robert Kerr, likewise an Irishman, distinguished for his strict discipline; and his brother William Kerr, John M. Jones, Daniel Sellers, Samuel Davis, Thomas Bitting and others. Samuel Morris lived where Thomas J. Wentz now resides. Farmar's mill, heretofore noticed, belonged to the Morris' at the time of the Revolution. The road known as the Morris road, leading northwestwardly from Fort Washington, derives its name from the Morris' of Whitemarsh and Whitpain.

Samuel Morris, of Whitemarsh, so called to distinguish him from others of the prominent family, whose name he bore, belonged to the society of Friends. He was a leading member of Plymouth meeting, in which he was overseer. I find by the minutes of said meeting that he took quite an active part. From 1745 until 1753 he was justice of the peace, as appears from Pennsylvania Archives, Vol. IX, second series.

The Morris family, in the quite early days of the colony, were active in the affairs of the government, and ever since, many of them having become prominent as legislators, lawyers, and officers in the service of the state and nation. Joshua Morris, his brother, served many years in the General Assembly, from Abington. Anthony Morris, who came over with, or shortly after Penn's arrival, became a large land owner of Whitemarsh and Whitpain townships. He originally built the seat called the "Highlands," lately the estate of George Sheaff, now owned by the heirs.

I have frequently heard in my earlier days from the old residents of the township, that a public road at one time, say previous to the Revolution, or at that time, was in use, starting from the turnpike, immediately above the residence of S.

W. and Franklin A. Comly, and followed a nearly west course through the farms of the Messrs. Comly, across the Wissahickon and the Valley Green farm, now owned by P. F. Siltzer, and thence through the timber lands on the south side of Militia hill, and thence through the lands belonging to the heirs of the late Joseph Williams, and terminating at Lancasterville. Traces of this road are nowhere visible, except through the woods just named, where it appears to be readily traced. It is not supposed that it was a legally established road, but one that the public generally made use of in the early days of the colony, and before more convenient roads were established by law.

Within that part of Whitemarsh township lying between Barren Hill and the Old Bethlehem road, the public roads have been considerably changed since its early settlement; evidence of this occurs quite frequently. The road leading from Norristown in the direction of Flourtown, through the property of James M. Coulston, from the earliest time down to within this century, passed on and across the road leading from the Lancasterville road in the direction of Chas. Williams'. After crossing, said road passed on the west side of the Williams school lot, and continued in a southerly direction through the farm lately owned by Lewis A. Lukens, and passed the old grave-yard, heretofore described, on its west side, in the same direction, and crossed the Wissahickon at a ford opposite the late residence of Aristides Welch, known as Erdenheim. The road passed on and in front of this house and intersected the road leading to Chestnut Hill and Germantown immediately below. The track of this old road is quite visible at this day, and while a school director in 1866 I had the banks of the old abandoned road levelled through the school lot for the purpose of enlarging the play-ground.

Traces of the old ford at the Wissahickon are quite visible to this day. When this road was abandoned, another one was opened from the school house in an easterly course through the farm of Daniel Williams, in the direction of Cleaver's mill, near where it intersected the Lancasterville

road, north of the bridge over the Wissahickon. About 1852 this road was vacated by a jury, and another one laid out immediately in front of the buildings of Daniel Williams, and terminating at said Lancasterville road. Tradition, which is sometimes at fault, and may be in this, has it that an old road at one time branched off, from the first named old road, near the ford, in a southerly direction, between the house and barn on the farm lately Mr. Lukens', and continued through the farm of Charles Williams, and terminated at the old Germantown road, north of the St. Joseph's Catholic school, on the lot of the late Mrs. Scheetz. It is traditional likewise that a road at one time passed from about Williams' station in a southerly direction diagonally across the farm of Daniel Williams, and intersected the first old road north of the school house. About 1820, or a few years before, the commissioners of Montgomery county built the stone bridge over the Wissahickon, a short distance below the mill of Silas Cleaver. Quite an accident occurred before its erection. Thomas Coar, Sr., a lime-burner of Lancasterville, lost a team of four horses in attempting to cross the creek, at this point, during a time of high water. There is no doubt that owing to the erection of this bridge that so much change was made in the roads in this vicinity, so that the inhabitants and travelling public could have better approaches to this point, and less danger in crossing the creek, and which led to the abandonment of the others.

In 1878, the road leading from Cleaver's mill, through John Cleaver's (late Peter Phipps), the property of Samuel Yeakle, and past the mill of Chalkley Ambler to the turnpike opposite Samuel Van Winkle's, was laid out by a jury. All these properties were hemmed in by rights of way and private lanes before this time.

The Williams school, just noticed, was established in the last century, probably about the time of the Revolution, under the auspices of the Plymouth Preparative Meeting, and cared for by trustees appointed by said meeting. It is believed that the lot of ground upon which the house is erected was given by Joseph Williams, a large real estate owner of this township,

and whose name appears upon the list of taxables of 1734. He was a leading member of Plymouth meeting, and the ancestor of those of that name in Whitemarsh and neighboring townships.

When the common school system went in force in 1836-7, this school was taken in charge by the school directors of the township, and has continued under their management and control ever since. The first building was of the class of a century ago, and which have all, or nearly so, passed away to give room for better accommodations and in accordance with the advancement of the present age. The old school house which was an octagonal one, was torn down and the present one erected at a cost of about \$1900, in the summer of 1866. The writer of this was a director at the time, and had supervision of this school and building; the contractor was Isaac Brooks, a resident of the township, and still living; the well was dug by Daniel Staley, of Marble Hall, its depth being about 53 feet; Charles Tees, of Horsham, made the pump and put it in the well. While the new building was under contemplation, Plymouth Meeting appointed a committee to confer with the directors as to occupying this lot, but the board being composed in part of Friends no arrangement could be made, as it was understood that the *weight* of the meeting was with the directors. Thus the control of the school passed permanently to the directors without any disturbance. Among the teachers of this place, the only ones I can mention are of recent times, namely: Samuel Davis, Smith, Sappington, George A. Piper, Francis Murphy, a distinguished mathematician and an Irish refugee of 1798, Joseph and Charles Wilson, and others.

The dwelling or mansion house, late the residence of Aristides Welch, is quite an old building, ante-dating the Revolution some years. It is said to have been a tavern in the olden time, and the seat of one of the finest farms in Whitemarsh. Erdenheim, the name of this estate, is from two German words; "Erden," earth or earthly, and "heim," home, or home on earth. Sometime before the Revolution, it became

the property of Johan George Hocker, a native of Wurtemberg, who arrived at Philadelphia September 16, 1751, and settled in Lebanon, then Lancaster county, where he married, and shortly afterwards purchased this place and removed to it. He was naturalized as from Lancaster, July 6, 1760, thus showing that he had not then lived in Whitemarsh. By a certificate of an oath made before Zebulon Potts, Esq., dated May 27, 1778, to bear true allegiance to the state of Pennsylvania, is evidence of his residence here at that time. He accumulated quite an estate, and died about 1820, at this place, and was buried at the Lutheran church in the upper part of Germantown. In 1786 he was made one of the trustees of the Lukens grave-yard property, as previously noticed. He was a worthy citizen, and held many positions of trust and reliability among his friends and neighbors.

This house was the scene of a very atrocious attempt at burglary and murder shortly after 1800. Mr. Hocker had just sold some property, and it was known that he had a large sum of money in the house at the time, and it was known to the burglars. About midnight he was called out of bed (the family had all retired) by them for the purpose of warming themselves. This, on account of the unusual hour of the night, was denied them. Owing to their persistency, he called up his hired man, who came at once to his assistance; but by this time the burglars had broken open the door and effected an entrance, and demanded his money, which he at once denied them. Mr. Hocker, wife, and hired man, the only ones at home, except a small daughter, attempted to drive them from the house. The ruffians, believing themselves strong enough, resisted them, and a bloody fight at once commenced. There being two burglars, the hired man attacked one of them and Mr. Hocker and his wife the other. After fighting some time, Hocker, being an old man, and nearly exhausted, made a desperate stroke at the burglar, who had temporarily left him in pursuit of his wife with a drawn knife, and felled the villain to the floor. In the affair, Mr. Hocker received but a slight wound. The old man, thus relieved of his antagonist, went

to assist the hired man, who was getting the worst of it, and their united efforts soon placed him *hors du combat*. They at once secured him with ropes, etc., and then treated the other in the same manner. No life was lost, but blood flowed quite freely, as the walls, entry, furniture, floors, etc., bore evidence of this.

I have the history of this narrative from the daughter Margaret, noticed above, who married William Cress. She died some twenty-five years ago. When all was over, and the burglars secured, an apple butter boiling party held at Streep-er's, the next place below, had broken up, and were going to their respective homes. They were called in, and assisted in getting the burglars into a wagon to take them to Norristown for commitment. After being lodged in jail, they broke out, and after a good hunt were captured along the Wissahickon. They were tried, convicted, and sentenced for a long time to hard labor. Thus ended one of the most outrageous affairs that ever occurred in the township.

The descendants of George Hocker are among the most respectable families in our county and state: Scheetz, Henk, Hitner, Acuff, Cress, Wentz, etc., etc.

After the death of George Hocker, Erdenheim became the property of his son-in-law, William Cress, who owned it but a short period when General Scheetz, likewise a son-in-law, bought the property for his son, Jacob Scheetz, who owned it some length of time, when he sold it to William W. Longstreth, a brother of the late Judge Longstreth, who held it some years. Becoming tired of farming, the latter sold it to Dr. Jas. A. McCrea, of Philadelphia. He, after a time, sold it to George Blight, of the same city, from whom it passed to Aristides Welch about 1861.

From this time on, the place, already known as Erdenheim, became known throughout the United States as one of the most successfully managed stock farms in the country, and especially for running horses, to which Mr. Welch gave his undivided attention. His thorough knowledge of breeding the best blood in America, joined with his industry and judg-



ment, made him one of the best authorities on the rearing of fine stock, in which he was very successful.

During his ownership he increased this estate from about 150 to 250 acres, comprising some of the best land in White-marsh and Springfield.

Dr. McMonagle, in the report of the Ontario Agricultural Commission of 1881, part 5, says that "Mr. Welch is probably the most astute breeder of blooded stock in the United States, except Mr. Alexander, of Kentucky."

Among some of the most noted horses owned and bred at Erdenheim may be mentioned Rysdick, Strathmore, Lexington, Susquehanna, Leamington, who probably never had his superior in America, and died in May, 1878; Lady Duke, Alarm, Reform, Iroquois, who was the winner of the Prince of Wales' stakes at the Ascot races a few years ago, and the first American racer that ever won the prize in England; Harrold, and a number of others. He likewise became the owner of Flora Temple, the great trotter of twenty-five years ago. Both Leamington and Flora Temple were buried in his lawn in front of his residence, and imposing slabs of granite placed over their graves.

In May, 1882, Mr. Welch sold Erdenheim to Commodore Norman W. Kittson, of St. Paul, Minnesota, for \$125,000, who made extensive improvements with a view of very much enlarging stock raising, having purchased the farm of Lewis A. Lukens, on the opposite side of the Wissahickon creek, thus making this estate contain about four hundred acres of very fine land.

Three tracks for training and exercising horses and colts have been laid out on this place by Commodore Kittson since his ownership, one a mile track, one a half-mile and an eighth-mile track under cover for the purpose of exercising colts in bad weather.

This place has for the last hundred years been constantly managed by the owners themselves, and consequently retains the reputation of being a first-class farm.

Jonathan Robeson, Jr., heretofore mentioned, was a large real estate owner in the township. He married, February 17, 1745-6, Catharine, daughter of Edward Farmar. He left eleven children, whose descendants are quite numerous in Montgomery county and elsewhere. The Hon. George M. Robeson, for some years member of Congress from New Jersey, and formerly Secretary of the Navy, is a descendant of his youngest son Morris. His son Jonathan became a Lieutenant in the First City Troop, Captain Dunlay, and was ordered on duty during the Whisky Insurrection. He inherited the mill property and tract of land of his father, in Whitemarsh, now owned by Silas Cleaver, and the farms of John Cleaver and Thomas S. Phipps. Both the father and son were millers and farmers. The younger Jonathan married a Wharton, but left no children, and at his death he bequeathed all his property to his brother Andrew, who is said to have settled in South Carolina, where a county is named after him. Peter Robeson, another son, married Martha Livezey and lived at what is known as Robeson's mill, at the mouth of the Wissahickon, where the Philadelphia, Germantown and Norristown Railroad crosses the same, and was a miller likewise. Edward Farmar, by his will, appointed Peter Robeson, his son Joseph Farmar and Jonathan Robeson executors to settle his large estate. This Peter Robeson was likewise a son-in law of Edward Farmar and an uncle of the above named Jonathan Robeson, Jr., and married Sarah, an elder daughter. He was a tanner by occupation, and is described in deeds as "gentleman," at one time Coroner of Philadelphia, and died in 1769. I have seen many deeds which are extant at this day executed by these executors. The name of Robeson frequently occurs on the minutes of Plymouth Meeting.

When the common school system was adopted by the township and went into operation in 1836 and 1837, the directors contracted for the building of three school houses at a cost of \$1000, or at about \$350 apiece. One of the houses was located at Lancasterville, another at Marble Hall, and the third at Springmill. The contract for their erection was given to

George N. and Charles Heydrick of Springfield, but as the population increased they were replaced by other buildings more commodious and in accordance with the modern idea of what a school room should be. The one at Lancasterville was built some five or six years ago, and is quite creditable to the taste of the directors.

Immediately above the gap in Militia Hill, and on the right of what, in old deeds, is called the Welch road, stands a building which was originally built for a Methodist Episcopal Church, in the year 1846. But the congregation being weak in numbers, in course of time it was abandoned, and the building, through neglect, quite dilapidated, was sold and converted into tenant houses, and so remains to this day.

I made an error in saying that the old eight-square school house was built about the time of the Revolution. It was erected in the summer of 1816, by a committee of Plymouth Preparative Meeting. The first who taught in this house was Thomas Paxon, who was yet living in Bucks county in the year 1881. He was followed by his sister, Goal Paxon, and then David Lukens, John H. Callender, Hughes Bell, Jacob Paxon and others. This information I have from Mahlon R. Ambler, of Norristown, who was born at the old building on the farm of Daniel Williams.

The origin of the Barren Hill Lutheran Church is given in an old manuscript still retained among the minutes of the church. By this I find that "The ground on which the afore-said school house and St. Peter's Church are erected and the burying-ground is situated is together with all the buildings set apart for the use of a congregation of the German Protestant inhabitants of Whitemarsh, their heirs and descendants who may adhere to the German Protestant Evangelical doctrine according to the foundation of the Apostles and Prophets in the Old and New Testaments, profess the principles of the unaltered Augsburg Confession and submit themselves to the requirements of this discipline.

"This, our German Evangelical congregation of the afore-said St. Peter's Church, school house and appurtenances, shall

remain in connection with the German Protestant Evangelical congregations in Philadelphia, New Hanover, Providence and Germantown, and shall not separate from the United Ministers and Trustees of the same without their consent, *for a threefold cord is more durable than a single cord.*

"The following persons and inhabitants of Whitemarsh commenced the building of the school house and church and their appurtenances, viz: Messrs. Christopher Roben, Philip Cressman, Valentine Miller, Philip Hersch and Adam Snider, as it is written in the deed of the school house of the 15th of March, 1758.

"The aforesaid originators have, by a majority of their votes, transferred their Trusteeship and rights to the following persons, and constituted them Trustees in their stead, viz: Rev. Richard Peters (the father of Judge Peters, of Philadelphia), at that time first minister of the English church in Philadelphia; Charles Magnus Wrangel, D. D. and Provost of the Swedish Lutheran church in Pennsylvania and New Jersey; Henry Muhlenberg, first minister of the United German Evangelical congregations in Pennsylvania; Henry Keppeler, Sr., of Philadelphia; John Koplin, J. P., of Providence; Valentine Miller, Ludewig Kolb and Matthias Sommer, inhabitants and members of the church in Whitemarsh township.

"The reason why some of the members of the vestry of St. Michael's Church and congregation in Philadelphia were elected and constituted joint Trustees among others was this: In order that a Christian and brotherly union and profitable harmony may be preserved between the congregation in Philadelphia and at Barren Hill, and in order that the congregation of St. Peter's Church may be supplied with the means of grace by the minister and his fellow laborers as much as possible, and more particularly since their first preacher, the aforesaid Henry Muhlenberg, has manifested the greatest zeal for and in behalf of the erection of the church and school house at Barren Hill, our collectors having in his name and with his letters of recommendation raised contributions to defray the expenses of the school house, and having after these were paid also, by means of his written petitions, collected money in Philadelphia and in the provinces of New Jersey and New York, for the building of St. Peter's Church; he himself having at the same time, as far as it was possible for himself and his fellow laborers, served us in the preaching of the gospel and in the celebration of the Holy Sacrament."

From the above manuscript we find that the old parochial school was built in 1758, and in it church services were held before the erection of the church itself; the first master was Michael Seely, who in his after years became blind. The church was founded about 1761, and completed not later than 1765. This was a substantial two-storied stone edifice, with three galleries in it, surmounted by a steeple, and remained standing until 1849, when it was taken down and replaced by the present elegant structure, during the pastorate of the Rev. Frederick R. Anspach. The last communion held in the old church was on the 8th of April, 1849. The ground embracing the school lot, the church and the old grave-yard was purchased at the time the school house was built, and paid for by the congregation, being German residents of Whitemarsh, whose names were given previously. The first building was of logs. Three other school houses have been built on this place since, in succession, two after the directors assumed control under the present system of public instruction. In the year 1768 Johann Georg Kuhn had succeeded Seely as master in the school, as I find in one of the minute books which he prefaced in a most elegant manner with the pen.

Among the subscribers to the erection of this school house and church we find such names as Cressman, Miller, Kolb now Kulp, Lehr now Lare, Katz, Fisher, Rickert, Wampole, Hiltner, Hense, Lysinger, Keely, Ferringer, Kitler, Hocker, Lentz, Feit now Fite, Heist, Mitchele, &c., &c. These names are taken from an old subscription paper of 1765, thus showing in many instances how numerous their descendants have become in the vicinity of Barren Hill and in fact the whole surrounding country.

Upon the completion of the church, the congregation became involved in its finances, as the funds subscribed for the purpose were in many cases not forthcoming, and the people not being able to sufficiently contribute for the payment of the debts incurred gave the committee great anxiety and annoyance, growing out of the importunities of its creditors. This arose to such a height that even one of the building commit-

tee, Christopher Roben, who was bound for the debt jointly with Dr. Muhlenberg and Mr. Henry Keppelle, threatened to sell the church to the Roman Catholics upon any condition whatever. This brought about a crisis in the congregation and something had to be done to remove the load of debt. The church petitioned the corporation of St. Michael's Church in Philadelphia as their supervisors to appoint arbitrators in order to examine the management and accounts of the building, to determine, judge and give an award of all the matter in dispute depending between the parties.

Accordingly the church of St. Michael did appoint, with the consent of Christopher Roben, well experienced men, arbitrators, viz: Robert Smith, architect; Jacob Graef, master of masonry; Frederick Kuhl and Michael Hillegass, Esq. These arbitrators, after nearly six months spent in adjusting the accounts and settling the controversy so far as they could, held Dr. Muhlenberg, Mr. Keppelle and Mr. Roben responsible. To this Roben dissented at once, which left the responsibility remain with Muhlenberg and Keppelle.

Upon the settlement of the troubles by the arbitrators, Doctor Muhlenberg, together with the good Mr. Keppelle, went to work to pay off the debt. Hearing of the trouble of his friend the doctor, the Rev. Dr. Ziehenhagen, the chaplain of the King of England, directed Dr. Muhlenberg to draw on him for one hundred pounds sterling. This paid off the most clamorous of the creditors. But what principally enabled the securities to liquidate the indebtedness was the legacy of thirteen thousand guldin (\$5,200) from the Count Solms of Roedelhiem, near Frankford on the Main. Three thousand guldin of this bequest (\$1,200) he made to St. Peter's Church at Barren Hill, for removing the load of debt under which it groaned. An old manuscript in the custody of the church, which I have seen, says, "His grace, sympathizing the situation and distress of Muhlenberg, was pleased most graciously to bestow three thousand guldin, especially to render Muhlenberg free from that burden."

Thus was the debt of the church paid off so far as to remove it from the meshes of the law, and in a short time afterwards totally wiped out. The high standing of Mr. Keppelle of Philadelphia, joined with the intelligent influence pursued by Dr. Muhlenberg with the Directors of the Orphan House and Royal Seminary at Halle, in Saxony, brought about this happy result.

In the earliest minutes of St. Peter's Church I find the first election under date of April the first, 1766, was held and that Henrich Katz, Johannes Bauer, Andreas Koeth and Philip Lehr were elected elders, and that William Hiltner and Johannes Fisher were elected deacons. They were installed by Dr. Muhlenberg on the 23d of October, 1768, Johannes Richert and Johannes Mitchele elected elders, and on the 15th of May, 1769, Johannes Hailman (or Hallman) and Christian Stier installed by *Reverendum Pastorem* Schultze. The last election in the first minute book was held September 24, 1775, and Henrich Katz, Andreas Koeth (Koetes), Johannes Rickert, Conrad Gerlinger (Gilinger), Andreas Bauer, Friedrich Miller, were elected deacons, and Leonhart Kolb, Frantz Vaaht were elected elders, and William Linneschut holding over.

This closes the records of the Rev. Dr. Muhlenberg. As will be observed these minutes are very defective and irregular, as the pastoral labors of Dr. Muhlenberg extended over such large extent of country that charges were very often without their pastors and interferred with regular service. The distance between churches in those early days, and bad roads, when the country was but thinly settled, and the inhabitants principally of foreign birth and of slender means, was in a great measure the cause of much irregularity in church government and lukewarmness or indifference on the part of the members themselves. This any one who will examine the condition of the religious state of the country from just previous to the Revolution and some years after will readily perceive. St. Peter's at Barren Hill was no exception to this general complaint, for it pervaded all denominations. The following letter

of Dr. Schaefer, who was pastor of this church from 1790 until 1812, will verify this:

"This *Protocol* was found among the papers and writings of the late Rev. Dr. Henry Muhlenberg, Sr., after his death, and was delivered to me by the Rev. Mr. Schmid, of Philadelphia, in November, 1803, for St. Peter's Church, at Barren Hill, in Whitemarsh township.

"It plainly appears that in the year 1775, this book was entirely laid aside. In the year 1790 I was called to the congregation of St. Peter's Church as their regularly ordained minister, and found the church and school in such a lamentable condition as to be commiserated. Only a few heads of families adhered to this congregation: the greater number of the children had already been sent to English schools, and an English school master had been appointed to teach without my knowledge. The church building was in a deplorable condition, like a neglected or disordered house, the rude walls, windows and frames broken and shattered, and the roof appeared also ready to fall in. It needed faith and trust in God on the part of the congregation to prevent this deplorable condition of the church. May the kingdom of God break forth with such power that the outward affairs of the church would be better administered.

May the Lord grant it.

FREIDRICK D. SCHAFER,

D. Z. Evangelical Lutheran pastor of Germantown and Barren Hill, member of the German Evangelical Lutheran Ministerium in Pennsylvania."

Germantown, the 25th of November, 1803.

This letter is recorded in the minutes in German in his own handwriting.

The founder of the church, the Rev. Henry Melchoir Muhlenberg, D. D., was born in Eimbeck, in Hanover, Germany, September 6, 1711, and was educated at the Universities of Gottengen and Halle. In or about 1740, the Lutherans in Pennsylvania, having become dissatisfied with the ministers among them, sent urgent appeals to the fathers at Halle, for regularly ordained clergymen to take the place of those then officiating in the sacred office, and who in many instances were imposters and entirely unfitted by their ignorance and morals for the places into which they forced themselves. For this



purpose when Dr. Muhlenberg was sent to Pennsylvania by his superiors at Halle, to remedy the troubles which then pervaded the churches and to establish good order among them. With this object in view he arrived in Pennsylvania on the 25th of November, 1742, and on the 28th of November he preached his first sermon at the Swamp, in New Hanover, in this county, then the county of Philadelphia. When he arrived he found only three organized Lutheran churches in the province, one in Philadelphia, at Trappe, and one at New Hanover. He settled at Trappe and took charge of the three named churches until 1761, when he removed to St. Michael's in Philadelphia until the Revolution when he returned to Trappe again and died there October 7, 1787, aged 76 years. His third son, Rev. Henry Earnest Muhlenberg, who finished his education at Halle in 1770, was appointed assistant minister of St. Michael's, and thus aided his father in his numerous charges.

He with his father officiated as pastor at the Barren Hill Church until 1777, when Howe entered Philadelphia, when the younger Muhlenberg fled to Lancaster, to escape capture from the British, whose enmity he had incurred, and took charge of the Lutheran church there. The Revolution practically ended the mission of the Muhlenbergs at Barren Hill. The Rev. John Frederick Schmidt, in June, 1760, accepted the charge at Germantown, and preached every other Sunday at Frankford and Whitpain, and occasionally at Barren Hill. The Lutheran pastors, it appears, namely, Kurtz, Voight and Buskirk, preached here at about this time or shortly afterwards every other Sunday. From about 1775, when the Muhlenbergs left, the records of this church are quite deficient or may be still preserved among the records of other churches with which the several pastors may have been connected.

During the Revolution this church received considerable injury, it being located upon debatable ground, alternately occupied by the British and American forces, and used as a battery and stable. In his journal under date of November 8, 1777, Dr. Muhlenberg says: "It was used as a stable for horses

by a portion of the American army encamped in the vicinity;" and likewise mentions that a short time previous the British army had been here, and taken from the people their horses, oxen, cows, sheep and hogs. The military history of this church is reserved for the future, in connection with the township's Revolutionary history.

Shortly after the election of Mr. Schmidt to the German-town charge, the Rev. Daniel Schroeder was the minister at Barren Hill. As the minutes of the church are very defective about this time and for years afterwards, Mr. Schroeder's name nowhere appears among them. This mention I have from Buck.

Among the minutes of St. Peter's church, I find that the first baptism on record is that of a child of Christophel Schuppart, named Christian; the sponsors were Philip Kolb and wife. This took place February 10, 1765. It appears that in 1765, Conrad Bischoff taught the parochial school, as he is designated as the school master in this year.

In a note over the signature of Conrad Bischoff, he mentions that the first book of the church minutes was lost or mislaid, and likewise that the Rev. Lewis Voght was the pastor at that time, probably here to assist the older Muhlenberg before the arrival of his son.


During the pastorate of the Rev. Dr. F. D. Schaeffer, and by his exertions, the old church was restored to its former appearance and taste. As already noticed, the edifice had been much defaced, and dilapidation generally prevailed in and around the buildings and grounds, the results of its occupation by the contending armies during the Revolution. In 1809 the congregation appointed the following members a committee to rebuild the church, and likewise to restore the grave-yard and fence, namely: Messrs. Henry Katz, Leonhard Kold, Johannes Herd, Johannes Mence, Adam Miller, Andreas Fisher and W. Bisbing, which was accomplished during the summer of that year at considerable expense, and which in few years was liquidated.

On the 7th of January, 1810, the new building was dedicated in the presence of an immense concourse of people. Dr. Schaeffer, the pastor, preached in the forenoon in the German language, and Rev. S. Schaeffer in the afternoon in English, the day being a very fine one. Dr. F. D. Schaeffer, after a service at this place and Germantown of twenty-two a half years, resigned his charge, and preached his farewell sermon August 23, 1812. He found the Barren Hill church in a wretchedly dilapidated condition, and the members scattered, as he says, like lost sheep. After a great deal of hard labor, extending over twenty years, he gave them a restored church, a thrifty and increasing membership which has ever since been maintained.

It appears that an Act of Assembly was passed in 1807 which gave rise to a much talked of affair, a church lottery.

No. 2666 Barren Hill Church Lottery.

(Authorized by law of the State of Pennsylvania.)

 This ticket will entitle the bearer to such prize as may be drawn to its number, if demanded within one year after drawing, subject to a deduction of fifteen per cent.

WILLIAM HALLMAN, *Commissioner*.

September 24, 1807.

The above is the ticket issued under the act, but I have from good authority that the lottery was never drawn. There is no evidence in the books of the church that the congregation availed themselves of this privilege. I have examined the treasurer's books and find that all the money needed to repair the church and enlarge the grave-yard was raised by subscription after expenses were incurred. William Hallman was a justice of the peace in Whitmarsh, and owned the hotel and store, late the property of Samuel Culp, and the farm of the late George Fisher.

Upon the resignation of Dr. F. D. Shaeffer, the Rev. John C. Baker, D. D., was ordained the minister at Barren Hill, and remained its pastor until 1828. In 1818, when the Union Church of Whitmarsh was built, Dr. Baker was likewise ordained the Lutheran pastor at that place. These two

churches remained under the same pastorate from this time until 1858. During the ministry of Dr. Baker the English service was first introduced, and before his resignation the German language was entirely dispensed with in public worship, and the church regularly chartered. On the 17th of February, 1828, the Rev. Benjamin Keller, D. D., commenced his labors at this place, and remained until 1835. Upon the retirement of Dr. Keller, the Rev. C. W. Schaeffer was ordained pastor of Barren Hill and Whitemarsh. In 1836, the first year of Mr. Schaeffer's ministry, the parsonage was built at a cost of about \$840. The mason work was done by Frederick Ferring, and the carpenter work by John Hart. In 1841 Mr. Schaeffer resigned and took the Germantown charge, where he has ever since resided.

On the 1st of January, 1841, the Rev. Dr. Frederick R. Anspach was called to the charge, and remained until 1850, when he resigned and went to Hagerstown, Md. He afterwards became the editor of the *Lutheran Observer*, the organ of the General Synod of that branch of the church, while it was located at Baltimore. Dr. Anspach was the last minister who occupied the pulpit in the old historic church. It was through his untiring efforts that the old building was removed and the present more modern and elegant church edifice was erected in the summer of 1849. The last communion in the old church was held April 8, 1849. The new building cost about \$6,500. Dr. Anspach was a man of great energy of character, and by his industry greatly increased the membership of both the Barren Hill and Whitemarsh churches, and when he gave up his ministry at this place he left the two congregations in a healthy and flourishing condition. In connection with his pastoral labors, he conducted a select school at the parsonage at Barren Hill, where the higher branches of an English education were taught. Dr. Anspach was succeeded, in 1850, by the Rev. William H. Smith. His stay was short; he resigned on May 10, 1852. In November of the same year, the Rev. William M. Baum, D. D., now of Philadelphia, accepted a call and entered upon the labors of

the charge. His efforts were attended with much success. The remaining debt on the new building was paid off, the grounds surrounding the church were improved, the cemetery enlarged and beautified, and the membership of the church increased. Dr. Baum resigned in May, 1858, and was followed in the same year by the Rev. S. Sentman, who resigned in April, 1862. It was during his ministry, in 1861, that the centennial celebration commemorative of the foundation of St. Peter's Church at Barren Hill was held with appropriate ceremonies and in the presence of a large number of the people of the surrounding country. Mr. Sentman was succeeded in 1862 by Rev. C. F. Keedy, who in turn was followed by Rev. J. Q. Waters, when in 1867, upon his resignation, the Rev. J. R. Dimm became his successor. The Rev. T. C. Pritchard succeeded Mr. Dimm, September 1, 1871, and still remains pastor at Barren Hill.

At the conclusion of the rebellion, the citizens of White-marsh township erected a large and handsome monument of native marble in memory of the dead of the civil war in the cemetery of the Barren Hill Church. The cemetery contains the graves of thousands interred here, and among the grave or tomb-stones are some very costly ones. In approaching the cemetery from a northern direction, it presents the appearance of a city of the dead. The church and cemetery, on account of their elevation, serve as a land mark, and can be seen for many miles around Barren Hill.

In November, 1878, a terrible rain and wind storm passed over the centre of the township and in its course a great number of barns were unroofed and demolished and other buildings destroyed. The steeple of the Barren Hill Church was blown to the ground during this storm, but in the following year was restored again. It was always an open question whence the name was derived, but I think, unquestionably, the name came from a quite narrow strip of poor soil and confined almost wholly to the church property. In the first minutes or records, we find the name spelled Barren Hill, both in German and English; this is evidently its true derivation. The good peo-

ple of this place, not liking the original name of Barren Hill, have had the name of the post-office changed to Lafayette Hill, thus in a measure destroying its historic association in connection with our Revolution, with the expectation of enhancing the value of the property of the village and wiping out any presumable traces of barrenness.

I have omitted to state the amount of money desired to be raised to defray the expenses of repairing the building. The Act of Assembly passed April 13, 1807, created the Rev. Frederick D. Schaffer, Henry Katz, Leonard Kolb, John Hart, George Bisbing and William Hallman commissioners to carry out the provisions of the act, but as already noticed only one of them acted in the matter, and from this fact it appears that for the want of unanimity the scheme was abandoned. By the act the incorporators were not permitted to raise more than three thousand five hundred dollars for the use of the church.

The following incident which frequently occurred, was related to me by an old citizen of the township, who often heard an old relative of his say, that in the latter end of the last century or the beginning of this the bats in the fall of the year would collect in large quantities within the old and dilapidated church, to the great annoyance of those assembled inside during church service. The walls inside were not plastered, but left in their rough state, without any finish, and the bats would collect in large numbers on the inside, and hang in clusters on the walls, and as the church would become warm from the heated stoves the bats would let go their hold on the walls and whole clusters would fall at short intervals upon the heads of the worshippers, to the dismay of the female portion of the congregation, and to the aggravation of the male portion. The land around the church in those days was not cleared up and beautified as at the present time, but many of the native forest trees remained, and the land in partially a wild state was a fit place for such vermin to harbor and annoy the worshipper on a quiet Sabbath morning.

I have frequently heard from an aged citizen of the township, that when Dr. F. D. Schaeffer was the pastor, upon a

certain occasion while preaching he suddenly stopped the services and directed his hearers to two snakes playing in the rough and unplastered walls directly opposite the pulpit. The doctor was speaking German, as usual, at the time, but in calling attention to the snakes, he did it in very broken English, which created some merriment among his hearers.

From the same source I have it that in person the doctor was very tall and spare, and generally rode on horseback from Germantown to Barren Hill. He wore a broad-brim hat, and presented quite a venerable appearance. He was a man of solid worth. His pastorate extended from 1790 until 1812.

Christopher Roben, who was a large land owner in White-marsh township in 1745, was one of the committee selected to build the old parochial school house and St. Peter's Church at Barren Hill. His tract or plantation was situated east of the church, extending as far as Thomas Lancaster's, or later the Wilson properties, and on the north of the fine property of Anthony Williams.

As already noticed, as one of the committee Roben became involved in its financial transactions on account of the poverty of its members and the small subscription that could be collected. An arbitration finally held Mr. Roben, Dr. Muhlenberg and Henry Keppelle, of Philadelphia, bound for the debt incurred in building the church. But before the arbitration was had Roben became so dissatisfied with his former colleagues on the building committee, owing probably to their irresponsibility, that he endeavored to sell the church to the Roman Catholics to get out of the difficulty. But this in no wise would be permitted by Dr. Muhlenberg and Mr. Keppelle, who at once assumed the whole debt, and in course of time paid it off. Thus the church was saved to the Lutherans.

Mr. Roben, or Raben, as is inscribed on his tomb-stone in the church-yard at Barren Hill, was born November 19, 1706, and died in 1770, at the age of 64. His wife, whose name was Mary, died shortly before, both having inscriptions in German

upon their head-stones, in common with many others who have German inscriptions marking their last resting place.

In visiting this church-yard the visitor's attention would be drawn to the fact that nearly all who repose within its limits are of German ancestry or lineage. Among those buried here the most numerous are those of the following names, viz.: Hagy, Hiltner, Barnes, Sharp, Katz, Kolb or Culp, Hitner, Streep, Fisher, Hallman, Gilinger, Bisbing, Schubert, Schlatter, Roben, Dager, Freas, Fie, Hellings, Righter, Kirkner, Faust, Scheetz, Hocker, Cress, Ketler, Lentz, Haas, Rex, Bickley, Rickert, Johnson, Weidman, and many others.

The wife of the Rev. Michael Schlatter, the father of the Reformed church, is buried in this cemetery, together with two of his daughters and two sons, William, a merchant, and Gerardus. Mr. Schlatter resided at Chestnut Hill on the property lately owned by David Styer. The following inscription is copied from an old head-stone, broken and defaced, though its orthography and poetry would not find many admirers at this time, thus showing in a measure the rudeness of the times. He was undoubtedly a sailor.

IN MEMORY OF  
THOMAS TIESON,

Who departed this life, December the 18th, 1794. Aged 24 years.

The waves of Neptune I have conquered,  
And Bora's blasts I did shune,  
But Jupiter with his horrible shaking  
Soon laid me underneath the ground.  
But yet there is an omnipotent Being,  
And I know he mercy hath,  
I hope that he will show it to him,  
Who did die such a sudden death.  
If mercy he douth show unto me,  
Then I will set sail again,  
For God is merciful to all sinners,  
\* \* douth seek his glorious name.

Another head-stone of recent erection and close at place of entrance, has the following laconic inscription:

ANDREW SOCKS,  
A Soldier of '76.

Upon the death of Edward Farmar, in 1745, his son, Joseph Farmar, Peter Robeson and Jonathan Robeson, Jr.,



his sons-in-law, in settling his large estate, sold to Thomas Yorke, Esq., gentleman, of Germantown township, 952 acres of land, embracing as fine a plateau of land as any contained within the limits of the township. The farms of Charles Williams, a large part of the Erdenheim property, Daniel Williams, the Cleaver property and Thomas S. Phipps, were part of this tract; it was called by the Indians, "Umbilicamence."

Yorke sold immediately, to Peter Robeson, the entire purchase. It appears from the transaction that Yorke's purchase was only to make legal title to Robeson, as Robeson had married Sarah, daughter of Edward Farmar, and of course could not purchase directly himself. However this may be, Robeson sold to Anthony Williams, of Bristol township, Philadelphia county, 552 acres of land, being the property now owned by Charles Williams, and the late Lukens farm, now part of Erdenheim. The deed to Williams is dated March 4, 1755, for which he paid the sum of one thousand six hundred and sixty-six pounds, four shillings and nine-pence, Pennsylvania currency.

In the assessor's list of 1780 his estate is assessed at 470 acres, in the name of Isaac Williams, his son, who was tenant. This is evidence that Anthony Williams died before 1780, and about this time his son Isaac succeeded him, who in after years moved to the place of James M. Coulston, where he died in 1835 or thereabouts, having arrived at a good old age. It appears that he was a man of progressive spirit and of great energy. He was the first who undertook the task of boring for water by sinking an artesian well. He died before he completed it, though he succeeded in sinking the well to the depth of 300 or 400 feet, and getting the water to flow; the bore was about three inches, but the water fluctuated considerably, and finally ceased to flow. This probably was the first effort made to obtain water by boring for it in this county, or in eastern Pennsylvania. Who knows? Can any one tell or give any information who was the pioneer in boring for water by the use of augers? It would be interesting to know.

Joseph Williams, son of Isaac, inherited from his father his large farm, afterwards owned by Charles Williams, became a large land owner in Whitemarsh and adjoining townships, and died some years ago, at quite an advanced age, upon his farm, which passed by inheritance to his son Charles. The original tract, as purchased by Anthony Williams, was underlaid with rich deposits of iron ore, which have within thirty or forty years been worked quite extensively by James M. Coulston, Charles Williams and Lewis A. Lukens.

In August, 1793, a jury was appointed to vacate a road "forking out of the Great road, crossing the Wissahickon near George Hocker's and Isaac Williams', and leading to the Manatawny road." This crossing at the creek was at the same place where the new bridge was built by Com. Kittson during the past summer (1883). It thence took a southerly course to the great Manatawny road, known as the old Germantown and Perkiomen turnpike, as already noticed. In November, 1818, a jury was appointed to lay out and vacate a road "beginning near a school house, at an angle in the road leading from George Kline's (now Cleaver's) mill to Hickorytown, through Isaac Williams'." This road is the present one passing through the property lately owned by Lewis A. Lukens, and Charles Williams', to the old turnpike or Manatawny road.

James Fox, one of the first settlers of Plymouth township, petitioned the colonial councils for a cart road from Plymouth Meeting to Cresheim, Germantown, for the purpose of hauling lime to the city. This road already before the Revolution was known as the great Manatawny road, leading northwesterly to Pottstown, crossing the Manatawny creek at that place, and thence to Reading. The cart road from Plymouth Meeting bore a more easterly course, in the direction towards James M. Coulston's, through the forests toward the Wissahickon, crossing the creek at the same place as at present, and thus avoiding several of the hills between Marble Hall and the foot of Chestnut Hill. This old cart road was laid out Second-month, 1687. In after years, as the county became more set-

tled, the road was considerably straightened, and became the Manatawny road.

The Germantown and Perkiomen turnpike road was incorporated February 12, 1801, and laid out upon the bed of this road, with a capital of \$285,000, solely built by individual subscription, the state taking no stock in the company. The turnpike was completed in 1804, at \$11,287 per mile, the entire length being twenty-four miles, ending at the Perkiomen bridge at Collegeville. In 1874 this company lost its rights of incorporation against the city of Philadelphia, by which the gates on the road were removed, and the entire length thrown open to free travel, since which time the townships through which it passes attend to the repairing of the road as other roads are kept in order. By a decree of court, the city was compelled to pay the stockholders the sum of \$91,000. This was for the entire length of the road.

The old tumble-down buildings yet standing on the south corner at the cross roads at Marble Hall in the field some distance from the old turnpike, were built in the year 1743 by Adam Kitler, who was a land holder in 1734, as appears on the list of taxables of that year. He purchased in 1745 the property on both sides of the Manatawny road from the cross roads at Marble Hall southward to the Barren Hill church. This tract is rich in mineral deposits of both iron ore and marble. The Lentz property, a part of this tract, and upon which the old dilapidated buildings still remain, contains a marble quarry which has been worked for a number of years, large quantities having been taken from this place to Philadelphia. These quarries until a year or two ago were operated by D. O. Hitner. Immense quantities of iron ore have been taken from the Freas and Hiltner properties, now belonging to D. O. Hitner, formally belonging to the Kitler purchase. Probably the first ore was dug at this place that was mined in the township. Adam Kitler was buried in the grave-yard at Barren Hill. There are none of his name remaining in the township.

In November, 1811, the cross road at Marble Hall was

laid out by a jury in the following manner: "Beginning at the Ridge road, dividing lands of John Lentz and Daniel Hitner, to a road leading from Plymouth Meeting to Jarrett's Mill (now Cleaver's).

Patrick Menan, the eminent surveyor, conveyancer, and school-master, as he was called in those days, lived and died at what is now Marble Hall, on the east corner of the cross roads now the property of D. O. Hitner. He resided there from 1753 until his death. On the assessor's list of 1780 he is assessed as follows: "Patrick Menan, aged, fifty acres, one horse and two cows. Affirmed." He was an excellent penman, as evinced by deeds written by him yet in existence; he was quite useful in conveyancing and drawing instruments of writing, settling estates and adjusting accounts. He was noted as a school-master, as he was called in those days, and taught a classical school in the township, probably where he resided. Tradition says that Dr. Rittenhouse and Gen. Andrew Porter, the father of Gov. D. R. Porter, used to walk all the way from Norriton to attend this school. He is said to have been an "Irish gentleman of culture." He made his will January 8, 1789, appointing two of his daughters executors, namely, Sarah and Mary. He died February 5, 1791, at the age of 80 years, and is buried in the Lukens burying ground, together with all of his family. He had an only son, named John, who died at Penn's Neck, New Jersey, October 12, 1768, aged 25 years; he left three daughters. Elizabeth married a man by the name of Trump, and left three children, Sarah, Margaret and John. The executors of his estate made final settlement, as found in the Register's office at Norristown, in 1796, by which it appears that the property was purchased by George Freas. By his will he bequeathed his surveying instruments to his daughters, Sarah and Mary.

The road leading from Marble Hall, or more particularly from the Ridge turnpike road to Springmill, was known as the "Joshua" road. It received its name from an old citizen of the township, Joshua Paxton, who resided on the property which he owned, lately the residence of George W. Hocker,

deceased. Mr. Paxton lived to be quite an aged man, and was a Friend and a member of Plymouth Meeting. He died about forty or fifty years ago. Immense quantities of iron ore have been hauled over this road to the Springmill furnaces ever since the development of the great beds of iron ore located in this section of the township. At times the road would become nearly blockaded with large teams hauling ore to Springmill, to the great annoyance of light travel and the public generally.

The celebrated Col. Hugh Lindsay, the Berks county comedian, in his life written by himself about 1882 or '83, relates several incidents in connection with his own, of a noted character by the name of Barnhart, who lived about Barren Hill in the early part of this century. Barnhart was a sort of vagabond and tramp who lived by his wits, traveling about the country from tavern to tavern, playing cards, thimble ring-ing and playing other games of chance, at which he was quite expert, and many a boy and man, too, suffered the penalty by the loss of his watch and money. Among the many incidents told by the comedian as appeared in the *Reading Times*, the following is the most graphically related, and which took place at Barren Hill. Col. Lindsay is still well remembered by our older citizens as a prominent play actor and comic performer, and the pleasure he afforded his audiences in all portions of our township; he was an exemplary and honest man. But we shall leave Lindsay tell his experience in his own way:

"Old Barnhart had won a great deal of money and many watches in his days, but he is now no more; he got to be very old and poor, and died in Lebanon county poor-house, I think, in the year 1838. Many years ago he kept himself about Barren Hill, twelve miles from Philadelphia (B.'s tavern), looking out for farmers and wagoners, to win their money and watches. One night they were playing in the dining-room; it was full of farmers and teamsters gambling among themselves with cards, and some betting with old Barnhart. About midnight a large black bear broke loose from his master, that lived five miles from Barren Hill; the bear had a large chain

dragging after him at the time. The bar-room being open, old bruin came into the bar room and made his compliments, where there were some twenty or thirty teamsters lying on their feed-bags about the bar-room floor. The teamsters got awake at the grumbling and noise of the bear, sprang up, thinking the devil had come for them; they rushed back to the dining-room where some forty or fifty teamsters and farmers were gambling together, swearing and cursing, drinking whiskey and cider oil, and betting with old Barnhart. The bear made his appearance suddenly, walking erect on his hind feet. The men took the bear to be the devil himself, and were so frightened that they screamed and jumped through the windows, breaking sash and all, down went the kitchen door, head over heels went old Barnhart and his table, his money all spilt. The bear was tame and wanted to take a hand with them, as he smelt Dutch cheese and gingerbread, but no one would stop for his company; they ran out helter skelter, head over heels, through doors and windows, and any way they could get out from the grasp of the devil, as they thought.

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There was great confusion the next morning at Barren Hill, as many believed that the devil had visited the place after gamblers. The bear was now having the house to himself; all those up stairs were afraid to come down. The bear got into the kitchen, upset the kitchen cupboard, broke the dishes, helped himself to a good lunch, and left for other quarters. His master captured him the next day, three or four miles from Barren Hill. The farmers and teamsters returned for their horses, and left and told the people on the road home that the devil was at Barren Hill; they had seen him and 'smelt' the brimstone."

Militia Hill, extending from the Wissahickon creek at St. Thomas' church to the village of Cold Point, is a spur or continuation of Camp Hill, its principal course being from east to west, and it is principally covered with chestnut timber of good growth. Both Camp and Militia Hill during the Revolution were occupied by the Americans under Washington about the time of the battle of Germantown. The commander-in-chief made his headquarters at the Emlen mansion, the present residence of Charles T. Aiman, with the main body of his army quartered on Camp Hill, while the militia, seven

hundred strong, occupied the heights of Militia Hill, hence the name. The neighborhood yet shows traces of the occupation of the army. These are quite visible at the present time. On the northern slope of Militia Hill, what is supposed to show the position of tents can be readily traced; they are circular plots, about 25 or 30 feet in diameter, surrounded in all cases with a ditch; from appearances the earth was thrown into the centre of the plot for the purpose of drainage, as they are made by this means some ten or twelve inches higher than on the outside of the ditches. These plots appear to be in a well-formed line near the summit of the hill. They are all in the forest, and from indications it appears that the timber has been cut off three times since they were made, the stumps and timber bearing evidence of this. They are in many instances not more than one hundred feet apart. On the east side of the Chestnut Hill and Springhouse turnpike, and north of St. Thomas' church, a short distance below Fort Washington, are the remains of a well-preserved redoubt, on the property of Jacob W. Haines, deceased. Other remains existed until a few years ago, but time and the hand of improvement have obliterated them from our view.

Militia Hill evidently rests upon a bed of limestone from the Wissahickon creek to Cold Point. This is quite perceptible, as quarries of limestone may be seen at the east end where the Wissahickon divides it from Camp Hill, on the property of S. W. Comly, above the range of the hill. This is one of the earliest places where lime was burned in Pennsylvania. On May 19, 1698, Nicholas Scull petitioned the colonial council to open a road from Farmer's mill to Cresheim, for the purpose of hauling lime to Philadelphia. This was accordingly done. In the ravine through which passed the road leading from Chestnut Hill to Blue Bell, known as the Welch road, to Gwynedd Meeting, and so mentioned in old deeds in the olden times, the limestone rock is quite visible in the bottom of the run of water which passes along the side of the road. This gap in the hill, through which several roads pass, is quite an important point and accommodation to the inhabitants residing

in the vicinity of Lancasterville in getting through the hill from the north or south and east or west.

At the west end of the hill, at Cold Point and somewhat north of the range, are kilns and quarries which have been operated until quite lately. Thus it is quite evident that the whole hill rests upon a bed of solid limestone, but extends to no distance on the north side.

The hill itself is a singular formation, and bears no similarity to the structure of its base upon which it rests. The south side of the hill is often very abrupt and climbed with some difficulty, while on the north side the ascent is much more easy and gradual. The stone is of a very hard and flinty nature, and at a few places quarries have been opened and operated to some extent, and principally used for turnpiking and building, but too hard for successful dressing with the mason's hammer.

In February, 1820, the following road was laid out by a jury: "From the Broad Axe tavern and Plymouth Meeting House road, at the corner of George Heydrick's land, thence through said Heydrick's land to the Whitemarsh church and Plymouth Meeting House road at a corner of John Conard's land," late Benjamin Jones.' This road partially occupies the old Welch road, heretofore mentioned, to the gap, and thence by an angle to the east, and continues to Whitemarsh church on the north side of Militia Hill.

The road from Cold Point to the gap at Lancasterville, was laid by a jury, as follows: "Beginning at a corner of Alan W. Corson's land, Michael Rodeback and John Rodeback's land, in the lines of Whitemarsh and Plymouth, through Joseph Foulke's to the North Wales road." This road was laid out and located in August, 1815. From the records at Norristown, I find a jury was appointed by court to open the township line as follows: "Beginning at Philip Lair's (now Moses Pierce's) property and dividing Whitemarsh from Plymouth and Whitpain townships to the Broad Axe tavern, at the Skip-pack road. Jury viewed August, 1804."



In August, 1800, a jury located a road "In the Skippack road at a corner of Anthony Morris' land (the Highlands, the residence of George Sheaff, afterwards the late Charles Stout), and through lands of said Morris, Jacob Edge and Jacob Reiff, to Morris road. This is a township line road between these points. In 1877, the road leading from what was formerly a Methodist church, through the properties of Brownholtz, Harner, Kehr and Peterman, to the Skippack turnpike, opposite the Sheaff road, was laid out by a jury.

Buck, the historian of Montgomery county, observes, in passing along the road from Whitemarsh to Lancasterville, on the north side of Militia Hill to the gap: "In traveling this distance we were surprised at the wildness of the country, especially from the Skippack road to this place (Lancasterville)." This is true, even at this day, though written in 1859. The country seat of the late James E. Trexler is the only important improvement made since he passed along this road.

In May, 1777, Sir Henry Clinton formed a plan to capture Gen. Lafayette, who was posted at the Barren Hill church, and for this purpose he sent General Grant and Sir William Erskine with five thousand troops to cut off his retreat to Valley Forge. General Grant proceeded by way of Frankford on the 19th of May, and reached Whitemarsh on the morning of the 20th. Watson, the annalist, says of the failure of Gen. Grant to accomplish the capture of Lafayette: "The British made their approach with all possible quietness and secrecy in the night. They turned at Mather's mill (Farmer's) to go to Plymouth. At the mill lived a Captain Stoy, who, having occasion to get out of bed, chanced to see the army passing his door. He immediately ran across the fields and nigh cuts to give Lafayette the alarm; but, his breath failing him, he called up one Rudolph Bartles (Bartleson), who ran on to Barren Hill and gave the intelligence. Lafayette immediately sent off his artillery to the other side of the Schuylkill, at Matson's Ford, and going himself to the same place by the way of Springmill." Thus the "young stripling" outgeneraled both Clinton and Grant. Samuel Maulsby, who lived at Ply-

mouth, was Watson's informant. He said that the British General delayed his troops an hour and a half at his place, and that in the meantime Lafayette was successful in making his escape to Washington's headquarters at Valley Forge after some skirmishing at the ford. Rudolph Bartleson lived at the same place where Charles A. Yeakle now lives.

Whitemarsh was known as Farmarstown, and so called the first twenty or twenty-five years after Penn sold to Major Jaspar Farmar the patent embracing all that portion of the present township from the Skippack road to the Schuylkill river. On Holmes's map of original surveys, published between 1682 and 1695, the lines are well defined and as they exist at the present day, and the territory included is known as "Jaspar Farmar's Plantation."

The name of Whitemarsh was not applied to the township until about the first decade in the last century. Edward Farmar, son of Jaspar Farmar, in deeds executed before 1708 or 1710, is designated as "Gentleman, of Farmarstown"; and not until about 1720 is he mentioned as of "Farmarstown, alias Whitemarsh." From then on the name of Whitemarsh is universally used; and as no other place is so called, it is quite original to the township. Dr. Millett, in his history of St. Thomas's Church, says it was derived from a parish of the same name in England; but in this he is undoubtedly in error, as no such parish existed there. Buck, in his history of Montgomery county, says that the name may be from the fact that the sand oozing out of the springs at Springmill is white, and from the marsh surrounding them. I think this theory quite questionable, as the marsh around the spring is too small in area to give it such a character. I think, beyond a doubt, that the name originated at the east end of the township, at the village of Whitemarsh; and, in fact, along the whole course of the Wissahickon, from the Upper Dublin line to the Springfield line, within the township there is probably a thousand or fifteen hundred acres of excellent meadow land bordering on both sides of the creek. This low or bottom land has been reclaimed and made very productive since its settlement. In

the neighborhood of the old Farmar mill the marsh was quite wide; in fact, to the Upper Dublin line the properties of Reiff, Conard and the late Jacob Wentz contained much of this character, and has been made very productive for agricultural purposes. Southward of the old mill, through what was the Valley Green farm of the late Hon. Morris Longstreth, the Yeakle farms, Cleaver's, Erdenheim, the Williams's to the Springfield line, the same character of soil is continued. In primitive times much of this territory was quite marshy, but eventually was made the best land in the township. I think there can be no question that the meadow or marsh land, being quite wide in many places, gave name to the township.

In a petition to the Court of Quarter Sessions in Philadelphia, June 2, 1713, the inhabitants living in Bebbertown (now Worcester) and the country in the vicinity of Skippackville asked that "a road or cartway be laid from the upper end of the said township down to the wide marsh, or Farmar's mill, which will greatly tend," etc. This was the origin of the Skip-pack road, and was accordingly granted.

Thus the name of Whitemarsh was readily changed from "wide marsh," the common name at first used to designate the low lands or swampy nature of the grounds along the Wissahickon in those early days in the settlement of the colony. Nor was the change from "wide marsh" to its present one a great transition or stretch of idea, taken in connection with the similarity of the name. I think beyond a doubt that is the true derivation of the name Whitemarsh. As late as 1740 and 1760 the name was written frequently Wit-Marsh, Wit Marshen and Whit-Marsh. From this it appears that it was some years before the name assumed its present beautiful one—namely, Whitemarsh.

The Bartlesons of Whitemarsh came from Holland and settled in Germantown in or about 1700; at least, Sebastian Bartleson is named as among the residents of Germantown at that time. The name is variously spelled, as Bartlestall, Bartles and Bartleson. Sebastian or Sebus was quite a common name among them. They came to Whitemarsh shortly after

1700, and remained there until about the time of the Revolution. It is known that Sebus or Sebastian and Henry Bartleson, probably father and son, owned and lived where Charles A. Yeakle now occupies. Henry Bartleson was elected a trustee of the old Lukens burying-ground in 1746. He is likewise mentioned as a land-owner on the list of 1734.

In 1832 William Burk, a descendant of the Burks of Upper Dublin and Whitemarsh, was postmaster, and carried on merchandising in the village of Whitemarsh at the intersection of the Skippack turnpike and Chestnut Hill and Springhouse turnpike, directly opposite Wentz's kilns. During his leisure hours he would devote his time to inventions and the mechanical arts, and became quite an adept in his way. He invented a propeller to be applied to boats of different kinds, but he had never procured a patent for it, and others took advantage of his ingenuity and reaped the benefit from it. Many of the name of the Burk family are buried in the cemetery of St. Thomas's Church, and were frequently officers in the management of its affairs. The venerable Charles Burk, of Upper Dublin, still living at a great age, and relator of traditionary lore and facts of the olden time which he delights to impart, belongs to the family.

Alan W. Corson, son of Joseph and Hannah (Dickinson) Corson, was born in Whitemarsh township on the 21st of February, 1788. The family are of Huguenot origin, having fled from France in 1675, on the revocation of the Edict of Nantes, with other Protestants, and found an asylum in America in the vicinity of New York. Benjamin Corson, of Staten Island, was the first who came to Pennsylvania, and who settled at Addisville, Bucks county, May 19, 1726. He was the great-grandfather of Alan W. Corson. The Dickinsons, his mother's family, came to Pennsylvania from Virginia about 1683, and settled at Plymouth Meeting. A part of the meeting-house grounds are owned by William Dickinson, the first who settled in the neighborhood. Joseph Corson, who was a farmer and merchant, came to Whitemarsh from Bucks county in 1786, and located at Plymouth Meeting.

Alan W., his oldest son, when young hired out and served as boy in a store at Hickorytown. In after years, when he grew to manhood, he devoted himself to teaching school for a livelihood. Though receiving only an ordinary education in the schools of the day, he soon mastered the different branches of a higher education, and by his aptitude soon became quite proficient in the different branches of mathematics in which he excelled. He at first kept the school at Plymouth Meeting for some time, and in after years opened a school at his residence, near what is now Cold Point, on the south side of the Broad Axe turnpike. This school was one of quite a high grade, and some of the best families of our county and elsewhere patronized it. He established a nursery at this place upon an extensive scale for the cultivation of fruit and ornamental trees and shrubbery, which he followed until within a few years of his death, when he sold it, owing to his advanced age. In the prime of life he abandoned teaching, devoting himself to his nursery in connection with his farm, and divided his time between these and land surveying, in which he was considered one of the most skilled in the country. Mr. Auge, in his "Eminent Men of Montgomery County," says of Mr. Corson: "His reputation in this department was so eminent that he was often called to distant places and employed where there were difficult lines to run that required extra skill and accuracy to determine true boundaries. In this calling he was not relieved from service till infirmities and advanced age compelled him to decline. He was also for many years, because of accuracy in accounts, excellence of judgment, and high character for integrity, employed by neighbors and acquaintances to write wills, deeds, and draw agreements for them. He was frequently appointed executor by testators or chosen administrator of those dying intestate."

Alan W. Corson was a strict adherent of the Society of Friends, and to the last conformed to the usage in dress so peculiar to the society of years ago. The same authority quoted above says his "mind received a strong religious bent at a very early age, and his conscientiousness and truthfulness

have been controlling characteristics during his long life. He has been all his days an ardent lover of nature. Many years ago, with his cousin, John Evans, he used to make annual excursions to the lowlands of Delaware, Maryland, the sandy pine woods of New Jersey, and even to the Adirondacks, for specimens of botany, geology, mineralogy and entomology, and in search of other scientific matters."

In early life he married Mary, the daughter of Laurence Egbert, of Plymouth, who died a few years previous to his death. Alan W. Corson died in 1882, at the great age of 94.

The honesty of Mr. Corson was acknowledged by all who were acquainted with him. As an example, William W. Morris, who was assessor of the township of Whitemarsh for twenty-five years, says that when he would go around in the spring of the year making assessments Mr. Corson would request him to call in a few days again, when he would give a correct list of money at interest after examining his instruments of writing, stating in all instances the true amount thus to be accounted.

He was an earnest advocate of the anti-slavery cause from the start, affiliating with the Abolition party in all the stages of its progress to the final overthrow by President Lincoln's proclamation. No one more abhorred the system of slavery or rejoiced more sincerely in its suppression than Alan W. Corson. He was equally earnest in the cause of temperance; and, in fact, in any cause of true reform he would always be found on the side of justice and right. His very nature could do nothing else.

[The writer is indebted to Buck's History of Montgomery County, Millett's History of St. Thomas' Parish, Watson's Annals, Pennypacker's Germantown, Smith's History of Friends, Auge's Eminent Men of Montgomery County, Pennsylvania Archives, old deeds, etc., for much of the information contained in the foregoing paper.]

## THE STORY OF LYDIA DARRAH.

By Margaret D. Rex.

Although little known, the story of Lydia Darrah is one of the most interesting events of the American Revolution. In 1777 a Quaker named William Darrah, with his wife, Lydia, occupied the house known in history as the "Loxley House," 177 South Second street. Its commodious gallery in front was frequently used as a preaching place by the celebrated missionary Whitefield. The house was then out of town over the Second street bridge. In front of it was a hill, whose green slopes afforded a fine resting place for the immense audiences who came to listen to this great missionary. On that hill, too, Captain (afterward General) Cadwallader used to drill his "silk stocking company," as it was called, on account of the unusual bearing of its members, who afterward became General Washington's guard while in New York.

While the British had charge of Philadelphia, the Adjutant General of the army (said to be the accomplished and lamented Major Andre) made his headquarters at Darrah's, and it being a secluded spot, the superior officers of the army used frequently to hold their confidential meetings there. On one of these occasions, about the 3d of December, 1777, the Adjutant General ordered Mrs. Darrah to make ready the upper rooms for the meeting of his friends, who expected to remain late; and added, "Be sure, Lydia, that your family are all in bed at an early hour." She accordingly had the rooms prepared, but the order aroused her curiosity, and, womanlike, she resolved to know the purport of the meeting.

When the officers came, Lydia was the only member of her family up to receive them. After showing them to their rooms, she retired to her couch without undressing, but she could not sleep.

It seemed a higher impulse than that of curiosity determined her to become a listener, so she stole softly from her room and went to the door of the room occupied by the officers and put her ear to the keyhole. While listening, she heard, after a few minutes of silence within, a voice read in a distinct tone an order from General Howe for the troops to leave the city the next night and march out to attack Washington's army, then encamped at Whitemarsh. On hearing this, she immediately returned to her chamber and threw herself upon her bed. In a few minutes there came a rap on her door by one of the officers, who had arranged to call her when about to leave the house.

She feigned deep sleep, and answered at the third rap, when she arose to secure the doors at their departure. Her mind was so agitated by what she had heard that she could not sleep during the whole night, for she now possessed a momentous secret. Her sole thought was how she might apprise the Commander-in-chief of the American army of what she had heard, for she was not only a true friend to her country but she had a son who was an officer in General Washington's army. She sent up a prayer for divine guidance and at dawn she was astir.

She awoke her husband, but no hint did she give him of the secret she held. She told him she must go to Frankford for some flour for the use of the family, a common occurrence in those days. He insisted that she should take her maid-servant with her, but this she declined to do. She was a small delicate woman, but the cold December morning with the snow on the ground several inches deep did not deter her from her noble purpose. On foot and alone, with bag in hand, she started on her errand, stopping at the headquarters of General Howe, nearby, to obtain the necessary passport to get through the British lines. As her errand was represented to be a matter of necessity, the passport was readily granted.

Mrs. Darrah reached Frankford, nearly five miles distant, at an early hour, and leaving her bag at the mill she went on her way to the American out-posts. Fortunately for her, she



soon met with Lieutenant Colonel Craig, of the Light Horse cavalry, who had been sent out by General Washington to gather whatever information he could respecting the movements of the enemy. Colonel Craig knew Mrs. Darrah and inquired where she was going. Now was the time to disclose her important secret. After exacting from him a promise not to betray her, she at once informed him of the order she heard read at her house the night before. After warmly thanking her for the noble service she had rendered her countrymen, he conducted her to a house nearby and directed that something should be prepared for her to eat. General Craig then left her and immediately hastened to headquarters when he communicated to General Washington the news he had received from Mrs. Darrah. Lydia returned to the mill, took her bag of flour (25 pounds) on her shoulder and returned to her home with her heart full of thankfulness at the success of her ruse.

From her window on that cold night she watched the departure of the British troops to make the attack on Washington's camp, and again she watched when the distant roll of a drum heralded their return from a fool's errand. Forewarned was forearmed. The Americans were on the alert and fully prepared to receive them. When the British returned to their encampment in the city, the Adjutant General went to his quarters at her house. He soon summoned Lydia to his room and, locking the door, with an air of authority he requested her to be seated. She tremblingly obeyed.

"Were any of your family up, Lydia," he asked, "on the night of our last meeting in this house?"

"No," she answered, "they all retired about eight o'clock," and this was strictly true, though she herself arose afterwards.

"It is very strange," said the officer, "how General Washington could have gained information of our intended attack, unless these walls could speak."

"I know you were asleep, Lydia, for I rapped three times before you were awakened, yet it is certain we were betrayed by some one. On arriving at Washington's encampment, we

found him prepared at every point to receive us, and we were compelled to march back to the city like a parcel of fools."

This was joyful news for Mrs. Darrah to hear. She could scarcely restrain herself in the officers' presence. After their departure, she went to her room, and on bended knees thanked her Maker for permitting her to be the instrument of saving General Washington's army from a great disaster.

Shame on the American people that this brave woman should have gone to her grave without a mark of reward for this unselfish act of devotion to her country, while Captain Mollie, in the battle of Monmouth, was rewarded for an act of bravery done impulsively to avenge her husband's death. By the recommendation of Washington, her name was placed upon the list of half-pay officers for life, and also conferred upon her the commission of Sergeant. The action of Mrs. Darrah was of so much more importance to the army that we fail to understand why it should have passed unrecognized by the government.

## BANKS AND BANKING.

By William McDermott.

It is not my intention, in submitting this paper to your association, to delve into the archives of the state or county, or go through the doings of our law-makers and cull from their reports a huge array of figures or pages of facts that lay there entombed; but to look over the past years and lay before you the recollections of the generation gone by, and deal only in such figures as may be necessary for the "historical" portion of this paper; and thus take a journey together along the past to the present year, 1881, now drawing to a close, in the line of the monetary interests of Montgomery county, Pennsylvania.

Gold, the symbol, from its imperial throne of power, dispenses its gifts as the patron of art, science, literature, and industrial pursuits, thus moving the world. It has been said that a war in Europe was, for a time, prevented by the Rothschilds refusing a loan to one of the belligerent powers sufficient to equip the army and navy. Gold endows our colleges, erects and sustains the great institutions of learning, of charity and benevolence; gives the source and impetus to the grand and noble improvements of this and all other ages; it is the demand of every-day life—a necessity of the beggar for the loaf of stale bread, and the requisite of the proud and prodigal ruler on the throne of empire; it is a most valued servant, a bitter and cruel master. We are therefore all most deeply interested in those appliances that will supply our needs the best.

Although paying for money borrowed, a peculiarity of banking, has been familiar to us all our lives, we may not have noticed that it is so different from borrowing any other article. A farmer would not charge his neighbor for the loan of a plow,

or a student charge for the loan of a book. It probably grew out of the profit we make out of the money borrowed. Then comes the demand for the safe-keeping of funds. But the way funds are being lost, "safety" may soon be a lost art.

The earliest idea of exchanging money, and of interest, or usury, the chief principle of banking, is in a law of the Jews, recorded in Exodus xxii, 25, where we find, "If thou lend money to any of my people that is poor by thee, thou shalt not be to him as a usurer, neither shalt thou lay upon him usury." There are but two places in the New Testament where the word "usurer" is used. In the parable of the Pounds, in Matthew and Luke, the Lord condemns the faithless servant who failed to make a proper use of the talent given him. In the new version, the word "usury" is translated "interest." The verse reads, "Wherefore thou gavest not my money into the bank that at my coming I might have received my own with interest." This is the only instance where the word "bank" is used. The principle of exchange, of giving one thing for another, seems to be an instinct of the race. We find in Genesis xxiii, 9, the beautifully pathetic story of Abraham, where he made arrangements for the burial of his wife Sarah, whom he loved so tenderly, by the purchase of the cave of Machpelah. He called upon the children of Heth that they might intercede with Ephron, "That he may give me the cave of Machpelah, which he hath, which is the end of the field, for as much money as it is worth, he shall give it me for a possession of a burying-place amongst you." And mark the words of the liberal-minded and kind-hearted Ephron, as he said to Abraham: "My lord, hearken unto me; the land is worth four hundred shekels of silver. What is that between thee and me? Bury therefore thy dead." Although freely offered to Abraham by his friend Ephron, yet we find that Abraham weighed out four hundred shekels of silver, current money with the merchant, a sum equal to about two hundred and fifty-two dollars. A pretty fair price, even at this day, for a burial lot. Yet here was the price more than thirty-five centuries past. And what a curious fact, that the first

money transaction recorded in the Scriptures is that of buying a cemetery lot in which to bury Sarah, the beloved wife of Abraham. It is no less remarkable that in the construction of the Ark or the building of the tower of Babel, no mention is made of "pay" or the use of money. Silver and gold as currency came with the earliest records of our race.

"Bank" signifies "a place of deposit," and comes from "bunco," an Italian word for "seat" or "bench." The first bankers were Jews, from whence it is said our word "jewelry" is derived. Goldsmiths then took charge of other people's funds, and afterwards tradespeople who had valuable goods of their own. Probably the first regularly established banks were the Bank of Venice, in 1171; Bank of Amsterdam, 1609; Bank of Hamburg, 1619. The largest and most important in the world is the Bank of England, in London. It was projected by William Patterson, a Scotchman, July, 1694, and started with a capital of six millions of dollars. This amount was loaned to King William, and therefore the bank became at once a servant of the crown. It was chartered from time to time by parliament. The notes are very plain, with no pictures, only the title of the bank and the denomination, but printed upon the best linen paper. To counterfeit these is a capital offense, and a gentleman told me he saw several counterfeiters all hung at one time in a public place. All the work of engraving and printing is done inside the buildings. After a note has been returned it is never reissued, but numbered and retained for a number of years and then burned. A furnace is always kept burning for this purpose. We have a better way. We chop up our notes, reduce them to pulp, and make them into paper again. The present circulation is seventy-five millions of dollars, and the notes are legal tenders. The interest on the great irredeemable debt of England is paid by this bank, from which it receives a large income. A man falling and breaking his leg collected a crowd, and from that incident a "run" on the bank was the result. Its dividends have been from five to eight per cent. per annum. The "Old Lady," as it is sometimes called,

raises and lowers the discount as she pleases, has her home in Threadneedle street, covers eight acres of ground, employs about twelve hundred clerks, and is controlled by a Governor, who retires on full pay after thirty years of service. The accuracy with which all its affairs are conducted, and the extent of its operations, have made the Bank of England a wonder of the world.

New York city, if not already, will, in the near future, be the money centre of the world. The balance sheet of either New York or Chicago more than rivals the great Bank of England, for such a sheet foots up all the way to fifty millions of dollars in a single day. We have thus reached in a single century that for which England has been struggling for two hundred years. And where in the wide world are such colossal fortunes built up in a lifetime? We have instances in our country where the amazing sum of a hundred millions have been accumulated by one man during his life of business. But what is a million of dollars? I can count a thousand silver dollars in nine minutes; but, to count and put away fifteen thousand silver dollars a day, as a regular day's work, would be a fair way of counting. At that rate it would take almost three months to count out, one by one, a million silver dollars. It is stated of that keen, shrewd, one-eyed millionaire, Stephen Girard, that he once had a lot for sale on Chestnut street, Philadelphia, which a purchaser, thinking to catch the wily old fox, offered to cover with silver dollars if the lot would then be his. But with a twinkle of the "other eye," he said, "Stand them on edge and it is a bargain." We may say the bargain was not concluded at that time.

Banks, before the war, were State institutions, chartered by the Legislatures under a general banking law, but which usually granted particular privileges to each institution. Probably the first bank in our state was "The Bank of North America," in Philadelphia, which received its first charter from the Congress of the United States. This year (1881), or the beginning of next, completes its centennial, being chartered in 1781. In view of this fact, the comptroller of the currency, at

Washington, permitted this bank to retain the old title, and it is therefore the only national bank without the word "national" in the charter and on its notes. Somewhere between 1825 and 1828, General Jackson, president of the United States, vetoed the United States Bank, which was to have been a great national bank. For a long period of years the question of "banks" and "anti-banks" formed the battle cry of politicians and entered into the platforms of the Whig and Democratic conventions—the former being for and the latter against these institutions. To start a bank, a committee would lobby a bill through the legislature, and, with the charter in their pocket, locate at any place where the most could be made. As a case in point, a party of men came over from New York, and after securing the "right," opened a concern at Erie, in our State, and called the concern "The Bank of Commerce," of Erie. "Bank of Commerce" was in large letters and "Erie" so small that it could scarcely be seen. The notes were brought on East. As the Bank of Commerce of Philadelphia was a solid bank the "scalpers" succeeded in getting a large lot of the worthless trash into circulation before the fraud was detected. When redemption was asked for the notes at the counter of the bank, no assets could be found. Banks, under the old law, made large profits by not redeeming their notes and securing a large circulation. The State law permitted banks to have three times as large an amount of notes issued as they had silver or gold, which were the only legal tenders in those days, in their vaults. The Montgomery County Bank, the only bank at that time in our county, under the management of that great financier, William H. Slingluff, never would be a party to such unfair practices, but kept the notes of that grand old institution always at par by redeeming them every week. I remember during a busy season, although he bought up every week all that could be gathered, he found one hundred and eighty-three thousand dollars awaiting him that had accumulated in the redeeming bank in one week. This demanded unusual skill in the management of the bank.

Although Mr. Slingluff was what was termed a "bank man," he always advocated the "individual responsibility" clause in charters, by which stockholders were held liable to depositors and note holders personally. He did this on fair and honest ground, that if the share-holders had the profits, they should be held for the losses. This old-fashioned, sterling honesty, if it had been universally adopted, would have saved many a bankrupt bank. As there were no statements made in those "days of yore," except to the auditor general, and buried in his reports, some of the state banks would circulate from ten to twenty-four times the amount of coin in their vaults. Hence there was no control of the manner of doing business, and, as a consequence, neither security to depositors nor note holders. The Western steamboat captain, therefore, could only be induced to trade wood for bank notes at "cord for cord." This state of things created hordes of brokers, who lived and grew rich by "shaving" notes. It would take a pocketful of bills to go from Philadelphia to New Orleans. Although you might be well provided for your journey, when you read the morning papers the next day, and then examined the bills in your pocket, you might not have enough left to pay for your breakfast, the banks "failed" so rapidly. Each institution prepared its own notes, and this gave a wide field of operation to the counterfeiters, because poor and indifferent notes were issued. The one-dollar note, the last issued by the Montgomery County Bank, cost five hundred dollars, and contained portraits of the four distinguished generals of Norristown: Winfield S. Hancock, Adam J. Slemmer, John F. Hartranft and Edwin Schall, names the nation is proud to honor. Every note lost was just that much profit to the banks; hence the greater the circulation, more and greater the profits. Great risks were taken, with the hope that dividends could be made and divided before the rocks were struck that violated acts of the Legislature.

Permit me to state, that, with the exception of what came under my own observation during more than thirty years, the important facts and remarks in reference to the Montgomery



County Bank, the Montgomery National Bank, and the great success that has ever attended that institution, as well as the incidents in the life of Mr. William H. Slingluff, who for more than half a century managed that bank, has been furnished by Mr. John Slingluff, the present President, and who follows with very marked ability in the footsteps of his distinguished father, who stood without a superior as a bank financier.

The rebellion changed the way of doing business, as well as our investments. Our people, to a large extent, had their funds secured by bonds and mortgages, and the first of April was "pay day," and lasted from about ten days before until fifteen days after the first. During these days a large amount of money changed hands. Many persons were not satisfied with the passing of checks, but must have the bank notes or gold; so it was no unusual thing to have to count the very same money over and over again. But how impossible such a way would be for the business of the nation to-day. It has been found that from ninety-two to ninety-six per cent. of all the business of the country is done by means of checks and drafts—that is from four to eight dollars out of a hundred is all that is needed in money. Then the issue of the government of bonds broke up this system of investment, so that the first of April differs but little from any other period of the year now. When the great Secretary Chase issued his "seventy-three" bonds, by which everybody who could gather fifty dollars could secure from the nation a penny a day interest, he did that which was not only popular and profitable; but stamped his scheme as the master financial monument of the war times. Our people were quick to catch at the offer, and hundreds of thousands of dollars from old Montgomery poured into the national treasury.

The war, while it brought a long train of evils, also gave us a National banking system; the very best this nation has ever had, and which has not its superior in any country. From the loose, disjointed laws and worse protective principle, we have a new system that stands upon a rock of protection and raises its grand symmetry and splendid proportions. It de-

mands safety and gives security to all along the line of its influence. What are its points of excellence? The holder of the note is secured beyond the possibility of loss, for the government has the bonds, with a par margin of ten per cent., besides the market value, to cover the entire national bank circulation. Then the depositor comes first for payment in a bankrupt bank, and if the assets are not sufficient an assessment is made upon the stockholders up to the full par value of their stock. That is, if you hold a thousand dollars of stock on the books of the bank, and the institution fails, you may be taxed up to one thousand dollars additional. The loss up to the present time, since the national banking system started, all through the panic, has been but one-tenth of one per cent. upon the capital. The notes are most elaborately engraved on both sides, requiring the most skilled workmen and the very best machinery. They are, therefore, very difficult to counterfeit, and the extent of the counterfeiter's domain is circumscribed.

The first national bank organized under the national banking act was the First National Bank of Philadelphia, whose charter will expire in a few months. The last one is the Peoples National Bank of Norristown. There are over two thousand of these national banks now in successful operation in the Union. The New England States are largely in advance of other portions. For instance, the little state of Rhode Island has twenty millions of capital; the great state of Georgia, two millions; South Carolina, two and a half millions; Rhode Island has fifty-six savings banks; South Carolina, thirteen; New England has five hundred and sixty-three national banks; the Southern states four hundred and ninety-eight.

The Bank of Montgomery County was chartered in the year 1814, was the first one we had in our county, and for more than forty years did all the banking excepting what was done through brokers. In 1857 the Bank of Pottstown came into existence, and now we have, in less than a quarter of a century, eleven banks; and from one bank, with a capital of

\$400,000, we have an aggregated capital of \$1,370,000, with a line of deposits, at this date, of more than \$3,383,000, and a discount line of \$2,760,600. This increase would be beyond our belief were not the figures actually before us, showing that we are advancing with rapidly increasing steps.

But one systematic and desperate attempt has ever been made to rob any of the banks of our county. We remember Mr. Wm. H. Slingluff telling us that, many years ago, an attempt was made at one of the shutters, as was supposed, to bore into and slide the bolt. It was when the bank was in the dwelling. Mr. Slingluff heard the noise and quietly went out of a back door and around to the side of the house, where it was supposed the thieves were at work, but they had fled. Mr. Slingluff's courage and daring, combined with his being a "dead shot," would have sealed their doom if he had "drawn a bead" on them. I well remember, in this connection, although now more than thirty years ago, the "arsenal" at my disposal, for I acted as watchman as well as clerk, and slept in the bank. It consisted of two flint-lock shot-guns that always went off when an explosion was not expected and failed when you thought you had a "sure thing" of it. Then there was a pair of the old-fashioned horse-pistols, almost as long and quite as heavy as a carbine, without any of the certainty of a carbine. With these, so steady and true was the eye and nerve of Mr. Slingluff, that he could bring down a bird from the top of a tree. I tried to shoot cats with them, and sometimes when I thought the muzzle touched puss, would draw the trigger, supposing that she would be blown to atoms. But to my surprise puss would "skid" along the fence and squint one eye around to see if I was alive. Then there was a French blunderbuss, with a brass barrel about two feet long, wide at the mouth and closing up at the breech. Into this you might put a handful of powder and a pint of shot. The object of this kind of ordnance was to shoot all around the sky. I once stood near and aimed at a barn. What was hit I never knew. The shot went flying through the air like hail stones. In addition to the weapons named

was a double-barreled pistol. The first time it was discharged the barrel went flying off into space, whence nobody knows, and perhaps by this time it is revolving as a meteoric object through the upper regions. A few years ago a "kit" of tools was intercepted on their way to "crack" a bank safe, as was thought. In this "kit" were wedges, bits of the finest tempered steel, and a crowbar which could be put together in sections. This lot of tools was valued at one thousand dollars. A gang of robbers made an attempt upon a bank in Wilmington, Del., some years ago. The leader was the famous "Big Frank," who was a graduate of Yale College. Two persons from Conshohocken were present and saw them whipped and put in the pillory. They recognized "Big Frank" and an associate as having spent three nights in Conshohocken, and who visited the bank there on trivial business. One of our youngest banks, situated at Pennsburg, was broken into. The following graphic description of that attempt is from the pen of Augustus F. Day, the cashier, with whom I was associated for twenty-one years:

The Farmers' National Bank of Pennsburg was attacked by burglars about two o'clock on the morning of November 22, 1879. They entered the banking room by forcing the front door, and, as there was no watchman in the building, at once proceeded to open the safe. This is of large size and good make. It consisted of an outside safe, as a protection against fire, and an inside one as a protection against burglars. The outside, or fire-proof part, they soon blew open with a charge of powder inserted in the joints of the door. After waiting about half an hour they put a blast in the burglar-proof part, and set it off. The noise was terrific and awakened the neighbors. But they did not succeed in opening the part that contained the valuables of the bank, and, with one hurried view, left the premises and sought safety in flight, leaving behind all their implements, consisting of jimmies, sledge, wedges, powder, brace, bit, etc. By this time the officers of the bank and neighbors began to arrive. Upon investigation it was found that nothing had been stolen. The loss was about two hundred dollars damage done to the safe. About daylight the report of the attempted robbery began to spread, and people commenced to come in. The room presented a bad appear-

ance from the explosion. The fire-proof doors had been filled with lime and plaster, and this was scattered over the room. The front windows were broken, and confusion and disorder prevailed. The people of the town came to see the terrible sight. Then the people from the country came—men, women, boys, girls and babies. This living tide kept coming on from early dawn through the live-long day; they came two, three, five and ten miles; they came to see the strange sight; they kept on coming until ten o'clock at night, when the doors were barred and they could no longer get in. It was an event long to be talked about and long to be remembered.

There has been but one defalcation in all the history of the banks of this county. None of the funds of these institutions, and many millions have passed through them in all these years, ever stuck to the hands of the officers.

The forgeries have been quite insignificant, notwithstanding all the great business done. In one instance of which we have knowledge, an officer of one of our banks exhibited remarkable skill in hunting a forger. The criminal escaped arrest only by dying, just as the officers were upon his heels. So sudden was his death, too, that there was strong reason for believing that he had committed suicide. That officer proved to possess detective qualities of a high order, and forgers would do well to keep clear of that gentleman.

The ten-dollar note of the Montgomery County Bank was counterfeited something more than twenty years ago. The bank had just made a new issue, and the first passing of the counterfeit in any amount was at Reading. Two men made their appearance there one evening for the purpose, and were arrested before they could leave the place. Both of them were from Norristown. The signature of John Boyer, the President, was well executed, but that of W. H. Slingluff was not so well done. It was said at the time that the signatures were written by a woman. The counterfeit was thought to have been gotten up by a party in Montgomery county, who had a reputation in that line. A package of about a thousand dollars was found in one place. I spent a week at the court in Reading as a witness. The counsel in the case was the then Dis-

strict Attorney, now Judge Hageman, of Berks county, and Judge Strong, late of the Supreme bench. Both of the accused were convicted. This counterfeit necessitated the issue of another note.

But one "run" has been made on any of the banks of our county. That occurred February, 1857. The facts and results of that attack are told in the statement appended hereto, furnished from the books of the Montgomery County Bank by John Slingluff, Esq., the President.

No one event proved the solid strength of the "old bank" as the trifling effect this "run" had upon it. There was an amusing side to it as well as a serious one. Some of the points I will give you. I was teller at the time, and I shall never forget the night on which it started. One of the strongest houses of brokers on Third street, Philadelphia, and a bank, telegraphed to the cashier that he could have a hundred thousand dollars from each if it was needed. A cashier in Bucks county stated publicly that his bank would redeem in coin the notes of the Montgomery County Bank if any one felt a fear of loss. Only a single bank officer, of all our knowledge, gave any "aid and comfort" to the scared people. The "run," that is, depositors and note-holders demanding coin, began on a Monday noon. The previous Saturday a mill in Bridgeport had paid their employes in five-dollar notes. The same evening some of the working people went visiting towards the upper end of the county. Here they attempted to make some purchases of a man who had been refused a discount. He became very angry when one of the notes of this bank was presented in payment. He said he would not take that kind of money, for the bank would not take his note, and remarked, "It was not good for anything anyhow." This incident was talked over and discussed until it was believed. At noon came a host of women, all for "specie." We had great quantities of silver, so I paid it out freely, for all silver, down to the smallest coin, was legal tender. When Mr. Slingluff returned from dinner, I gave him the facts of the case. A lull then took place until almost three o'clock, when long lines of

women came pouring in; and, as an evidence of the self-reliance of Mr. Slingluff, and the confidence he had in the institution, without advice or consultation he decided to keep the bank open. This intensified matters. The news went through the town, "The bank is open after three o'clock!" "Run on the bank!" Few came in from time to time until dark, when the rush began. Hundreds of persons were in the bank, and the steps were filled out into the street. A large portion of these were mere lookers-on. Inside the counter we were as cool as if at a feast. Mr. Slingluff and myself paid out the silver, while the other officers kept a record of the checks paid and the balances in the ledger. Efforts were made by those in the rear to reach over those who were ahead of them, fearing the money would all be gone before their turn came. We noticed that persons had money that night that we never found had any either before or since. Perhaps they were sent by somebody else. Bank books and balances were promptly settled up. One man had seven of the new one hundred-dollar bills we had just issued. I counted out pile after pile, and when through he began stowing it away. All the pockets of his coat, pants and vest were filled, and although a large pair of gloves were stuffed full, still there was more on hand. As a last resort, he tied up the balance in a handkerchief, and, with the perspiration rolling down his face, made his way home. So many persons saw him carry off such a load of silver, he became scared. That night he sat all through its long weary hours, with a gun in his hands, watching his treasure. The next day he drove over to Doylestown and deposited it in the bank there. About nine o'clock the crowd still filled all the space inside the bank and way out on the steps, but none of them demanded coin for notes or deposits. Mr. Slingluff stated that if they had received all they wanted, and there were no further demands, he would thank the crowd to retire so that we might make out our account. Slowly the bank room was cleared, and we began the work of finding out where we stood. About midnight we had cleared the deck, and went home to supper. Bank opened as usual the next

morning, and I went to the city for gold. But the storm was spent and the calm had set in. The grand old institution was firm as the rock; the waves had recoiled and confidence was undisturbed. No event in the half century experience of that distinguished bank officer, Mr. Slingluff, so proved his powers of self-possession, his resources and confidence in his position. The qualities demanded of the best generals on the field of battle and in planning a campaign were called into play by such a sudden contingency as this run. But he was forewarned, therefore forearmed. Mr. John Slingluff states:

NORRISTOWN, November 16, 1881.

*William McDermott, Esq.:* Dear Sir—Replying to your postal of 14th inst. would say, the run on the Bank of Montgomery County commenced Monday afternoon, February 9, 1857, and lasted about three days. During the week ending February 13, 1857, the accounts show a decrease of deposits of \$22,090.82; a decrease in coin reserve of \$26,362.09; an increase of Montgomery notes of \$44,990, of which \$36,000 was received in the usual weekly exchange and had nothing to do with the local run on the bank. On the 17th of February, 1857, the run was over, and the Directors discounted all the paper that was offered. March 13, 1857, one month after, the deposits had increased \$38,761.85, and April 10, 1857, they had further increased \$87,458.96. At that date the coin reserves were \$121,024.53, more than double the amount at the close of the run, which was \$58,023.77. On the 10th of February \$30,000 in gold was brought from the city, but not being needed was sent back in a few days. The run created considerable local excitement, but was confined almost entirely to small depositors and note-holders. The figures involved were so trifling, in the light of banking business of to-day, that fluctuation in deposits and coin reserves to that extent would create no surprise whatever.

Very truly yours,

JOHN SLINGLUFF, *President.*

It is within my recollection when silver coin, although a legal tender, was not sought for by the banks. At one time an officer of the county, who kept a large account, took his gold and notes to another bank and deposited his silver with us. When this was discovered we refused to take his silver



coin. The County Treasurer would come with his bag over his shoulder, with gold and silver, as he made his deposits at intervals in those "days of yore." I went five times to Philadelphia with two-horse wagon loads of silver—four times with fifty thousand and once with thirty thousand dollars. It would take us from six o'clock in the morning until about one o'clock in the afternoon. We would take an old farm wagon, put one thousand dollars in a box, and cover all well with straw. We would deposit it with our redeeming bank. It was always a profound satisfaction when this load was at its destination and the responsibility was over. After the war we took a similar load and sold it at a premium, but it was not when the premium was at the highest.

In the course of long years many strange and curious incidents occur in even so cold and unsympathetic a business as banking. The strictness of its duties tend to develop a suspicion of all strangers and all acts outside of the regular business and customers of the bank. Some years ago an old lady died in the lower end of the county. She had been kept for a long time by kind neighbors. One family gave her a home, while others provided for her wants. After her death it was decided to burn the old clothes about her room. Her bed was thrown out of a window, and it fell so heavily as to cause remark. It was concluded to cut it open and see what it contained. It was found to hide a mortgage for one thousand dollars and a large lot of gold and silver amounting to several hundred dollars. But such a lot of coin—particularly the old silver—I have never seen in the past thirty years. It was perfectly black, and represented almost all the nations of the globe. It would have done the heart of a coin collector good. The whole was deposited in the Montgomery County Bank by a gentleman who was appointed administrator of the estate. Of course, as soon as the money was found an heir was found also.

An old lady, whose husband was dead, and whose estate did not foot up as large as was expected, often came into bank. Her mind was affected, and she imagined that "Sammy," her husband, had put the money in the bank. When she wan-

dered in and saw the piles of silver she would begin talking to herself by saying, "Yes, there it is. That money is mine. Sammy said he had money in bank." She would reason this way to herself for a while, until she was convinced the silver was her own. Then she would double her apron and proceed to appropriate it. At this juncture we always interfered, and she would go away very angry.

A poor woman, who had parted with one piece of money after another during the Rebellion, reached the last—twenty dollars in gold. She offered it to me for change. Knowing its history, I told her I would sell it for her. When I gave her fifty dollars in greenbacks for her twenty, her dismal looks broke into smiles. Gold was then at two hundred and fifty per cent. premium.

Just as Mr. Slingluff went out of the bank one day at noon a dandy-looking man stepped up to the counter and asked for change for a note. He was elegantly dressed—high silk hat, broadcloth coat, and gold spectacles. Mr. Slingluff returned and said, "That man is one of the most notorious counterfeiters in the country." He was pointed out once again, some time afterwards. Then he looked like a seven-year tramp.

During the panic of 1857, one of the mills was compelled to stop, without being able to pay their hands. Business was at a standstill, and there was no work and no pay. Men wandered around trying to comfort each other, but without success. Finally, through the influence of the cashier of the Montgomery County Bank, money was procured by means of which the men could obtain bread. I took the package to the mill, and how vividly I remember the anxious looks and the whispered words of the men, who stood around in squads, when they recognized me and my bundle and knew of my errand. How their faces lit up with joy at the promised deliverance.

A score of years or more ago we were, in the habit of discounting for a firm in Pottsville. Once a month we sent the pay, amounting to two or three thousand dollars, in a sealed package. Once instead of arriving there at noon of the

same day, it was put in the wrong pouch, and travelled around the country for more than a week before reaching its destination. But it *did* arrive all right in the end.

A mess of chewed-up notes were once offered to me to have redeemed. The owner alleged that the dog "Jack" had snapped them from her lap. After getting her affidavit and sending it to Washington, I handed her in return, after the delay of only a very few days, new crisp greenbacks. She was profuse in her thanks and "God bless yees."

A shrewd farmer and tavern keeper in the "upper end," had for a lodger a young man, who, on leaving the next day, told a piteous tale of having been taken sick on his way home from California. He said he had nothing but a lot of "gold dust" which he wanted to sell, so that he could pay his bill and have something to take him home. He offered to sell it at a "bargain." The eyes of the landlord fairly danced as he saw so much genuine gold. It was the time when gold was selling at a high premium. Considerable debate was had about the price, but the farmer bought, and, with inward satisfaction, concluded he had done a big day's work. He thought the young man did not know anything about the premium. In great glee he brought it to the bank and asked me what it was worth. After looking at it for a time, I said I did not think it was gold, and advised him to have it tested. But he did not take any stock in *my* opinion, and thought I did not know anything about "gold dust." So off he went to the city, and, to his dismay, found "the thing" had no value whatever. It was not gold, although it glittered.

A Norristown business man came into bank one morning in great hurry and excitement. He wanted to know if a check of his for fifty dollars had been paid. He was told that such a check had been paid a half hour before, just previous to the departure of a train for the city. It appeared that an emigrant from the "fatherland," the depositor was a German also, had called at the store and stated that he had lately arrived from Germany, and had goods in the Custom House that he could not get released, as he had not money enough. He asked

help, and offered as security a large watch (nickel plated) and other jewelry. In fact, he offered all he had if he could only get fifty dollars. While the discussion was in progress another friend came in and spoke of the great value of the watch and the other things. This induced the business man to give the check. The watch was taken to a dealer, who said they were worth from thirty-six to forty dollars a dozen. The swindler had promised to redeem his "precious" articles in a day or two, for they were family relics and he could not think of disposing of them permanently.

An old Irishman came into the bank at Conshohocken one day, threw down a bank book and wanted his "money." The depositor had made his mark. The impersonator was asked many questions, and answered in such a way as to seem to prove that he was the owner of the deposit. He asserted over and over that the money was his, that the name on the book was his, and demanded the deposit. An impression came over me that he was not the owner, yet I had no proof. The facts seemed all against me. At last I looked him straight in the face and said: "*That is not your name.*" To this he affirmed, and said: "Then what is it?" "Well," I said, "I do not know what your name is; I have never seen you before." I did not know who had taken the deposit as it was done by one of the clerks. I again charged him with not giving the right name. At last, seeing my earnestness, he answered: "Well, to tell you the God's truth, that is *not* my name. But I got the book, and as the man is dead, I thought I could get the money." I suggested that another such effort might give him accommodations at the public expense.

Of late years, the improvements and rules under the national banking system have facilitated the detection of counterfeits. And yet the most dangerous counterfeits the country has ever known have appeared under this system. Not long since a most dangerous note was circulated amongst immigrants, chiefly from Germany. They were passed upon them as they were about to leave for the United States. Offices were opened to exchange German money for United States notes,

and it was not an unusual thing for the immigrant to find when he landed upon our shore that all of his funds were in counterfeits. But this scheme of robbery did not last long.

I will now speak in detail of the Bank of Montgomery County. It was chartered by the Legislature of the state in 1814. The first election officers were Henry Scheetz, John Wentz and Samuel Brooks. The first meeting was held at the Washington House, Norristown, October 16, 1815. At that meeting an election was ordered to be held on the third Monday of November, 1815, at Jared Brooks' public house; the latter was the Washington House, and stood on Main street where Quillman & Koplin's store now stands. Zadok Thomas was made Secretary of the Board of Directors, and remained in that office until his death, I think over fifty years. His appointment dated November 4, 1815. On November 8, 1815, the committee on site reported in favor of a house and lot owned by Philip S. Markley, at \$5000. It was situated just above where the present bank now stands. The capital subscribed was deposited in the following Philadelphia banks: Pennsylvania, Schuylkill, Farmers and Mechanics, and Mechanics. The first two failed and went out of existence many years ago, while the last two are among the most successful of the present day. One-third and one-sixth was the way the deposit was divided, the said banks agreeing to accept the notes of this bank for an equal amount. November 18, 1815, two plates of engraved notes were procured. One contained a twenty, a ten and two five dollar bills. The other contained a three and three one dollar bills. Of the first, \$12,000 were printed. The cashier was authorized to give notice in two papers printed in the borough that the bank was ready for business. The first dividend was eight per cent., declared November 4, 1816. The amount paid in was ten dollars a share. Francis Swain resigned as President April 15, 1817, and Joseph Thomas was elected April 19, 1817. Matthew Holstein resigned as Cashier March 30, 1822, and David Wolmer was elected in his place. At this writing the widow of Mr. Holstein still lives in Norristown. David Wolmer, who

was a bachelor, died March, 1829, and the same month William H. Slingluff was elected at a salary of six hundred dollars a year. He gave a bond for \$20,000, with Isaac Zimmerman, John Slingluff, John Slingluff, Jr., Henry Hallman, Joseph Harner and Joseph Thomas as sureties. William Foulke was appointed a clerk and runner about the same time. The capital then was \$33,340; profits, \$759.22; dividend, 2½ per cent. November 3, 1829, a dividend of 3 per cent. was declared; balance of profits, \$1,937.38. July, 1844, Joseph Thomas died, and in August of the same year John Boyer was elected President. John Boyer resigned December, 1864, and A. B. Longaker was elected.

In May, 1865, the stockholders agreed to change into a national bank, according to the national law, under the title of "The Montgomery National Bank" of Norristown, Pa., with a capital of \$400,000, with the privilege of an increase of \$200,000. November 7, 1868, A. B. Longaker resigned. William H. Slingluff was then elected President and John Slingluff Cashier. In November, 1876, Mr. Slingluff resigned as President. John Slingluff was then elected President; William H. Slingluff, Vice President; William F. Slingluff, Cashier. In January, 1876, a testimonial was presented to Mr. Slingluff in consideration of over fifty years' service in the bank, and April 14, 1880, he died.

In 1861, the cashier, with the approval of the directors, offered a loan to Governor Curtin for the purpose of arming volunteers. This was done in April, and the act legalizing the loan was passed in May. The amount was \$50,000, and we believe it was amongst the very first the state received. March 16, 1880, the capital was reduced to \$200,000, and the par value of the stock increased from fifty to one hundred dollars per share. Fifty dollars were paid the stockholders, twenty-five from the stock and twenty-five from the surplus fund. From the last semi-annual report made to the Comptroller of the Currency at Washington, we find the following statement of the past operations of the institution:

Total profits as a National Bank (net),	\$1,134,011 19
Total profits State Bank, at the change,	85,403 43
Total,	\$1,219,414 62
Total dividends,	\$980,000 00
Surplus fund,	200,000 00
Other profits,	39,414 62—\$1,219,414 62

In closing this paper we beg to submit a biography of William H. Slingluff, who for more than half a century was the power of our banking institutions, and whose influence and personal power moulded the financial character of our great county. He was born March 19, 1805; died April 14, 1880; entered the bank as a clerk October 24, 1825; elected Cashier March 28, 1828; elected President November 7, 1868; elected Vice President November 20, 1875.

Mr. Slingluff was born in Springfield township, Montgomery county, and spent the first twenty years of his life partly upon the farm and partly teaching school. He also assisted in the store of his brother, Samuel H. Slingluff, in the village of Rising Sun. His education was self-acquired. He attended a class in mathematics taught by Alan W. Corson, of Plymouth. When he came to Norristown he entered the bank as a watchman, runner and clerk. During all his life he took an active part in all measures calculated to benefit the town. For many years he served in the Town Council, the School Board, and the boards of directors of almost all the corporations established in the borough. From the year 1844 he was in the Board of Managers of the Philadelphia, Germantown and Norristown Railroad, and was instrumental in securing the charter of the Perkiomen Railroad, but declined to act as a director.

He took a great interest in the Montgomery Cemetery, and for years he went up and down directing and superintending the improvements of this now much admired city of the dead. At one time it was by his coming forward and personally giving his responsibility that saved the water company from delay and perhaps abandonment. His personal efforts at the same time procured the gas works. While in all these instances he

had the aid of other citizens of public spirit and enterprise, yet his energy, perseverance and courage under difficulties, his great desire for the improvement of Norristown, and his willingness to incur personal pecuniary responsibility, made him a leader among men.

When the Oak street public school-house was built, in 1854, he deeded the lot, with all the handsome grounds surrounding the buildings, for the nominal sum of one thousand dollars, and took a note for it. His efforts also gave to the town the Library building, and he always took an active interest in the welfare of this institution.

During the rebellion, as agent of the government, he succeeded in selling large amounts of bonds, and this, too, at a time when people invested with hesitancy. His offer of \$50,000 to our state, just as the rebellion opened, showed his patriotic impulses. Creed, color or nationality did not interfere with his liberal disposition to aid all deserving objects of charity. He collected and distributed, besides contributing, to the families of the volunteers during the war. He was an active politician, and his estimates of majorities were found to be verified by the count of the vote. In 1844 he was nominated by the Whigs for Congress, but the Democrats being largely in the majority he was defeated. This was the only time he permitted his name to be used for any public office of profit.

He was quick in his perceptions and accurate in his judgment of men and measures, and in honestly carrying out his convictions made warm friends and bitter enemies. Opposition to him was sometimes transferred to the bank, but the fair and honest integrity he possessed carried both safely through. The fact that he kept the notes of the bank at par gave the institution a large circulation all over the state and the West. He accomplished an amount of work that most men would have broken down under, but his strong constitution and regular habits sustained him. As an evidence of independence of action, he, almost against the whole banking opinions, refused to issue the "shinplasters," as they were contemptuously called, or "relief notes," permitted by the state. Subsequent events



proved the correctness of his decision. We never knew him to carry a pistol, yet often having large sums of money with him. He felt that it was a want of courage. Although carrying his points in every association with which he was connected, in all our knowledge of more than thirty years we never knew him to write but once for a newspaper, and but once rise to make a set speech. Both were short and very effective, showing him to be a dangerous antagonist.

At the close of his fiftieth year as a bank officer, the Association of Banks of Eastern Pennsylvania made him a surprise visit, and well we remember the cordial welcome he gave us at his beautiful home.

As an indication of his kind-heartedness, we remember hearing him rebuke a man who was in the habit of shooting pigeons which were let out of a trap. Having been deceived once by a small man, he conceived a dislike for men under size. He always helped mills in times of commercial distress. He was an excellent judge of signatures and bank notes. For several winters he volunteered, with all his other duties, to assist in teaching a night school. When he saw a commercial or political cyclone coming he would take hold, and, if not able to prevent, would try to control it; and this he often did.

The tenderness of this man's heart, with his stern exterior, was remarkable. During a sickness of more than six weeks in 1872, if he failed to call and sit by my bedside for a single day, he would come and apologize and give his reason for the omission. And when my daughter, aged three years, died, he came and sat by the coffin, and the eyes of this man grew moist with the deep emotions of his heart. That seemed a strange contrast to the brave man as he stood against some measure he believed to be wrong. But the brave are the ones that weep. He was so fond of children that he gave presents to all the children of the officers of the bank at Christmas.

In public life he was firm, stern, honest in thought as well as act, independent and defiant. In business life he was himself an example of the highest integrity of character, and demanded the same qualities in everybody else. He would

not countenance the slightest deviation from the standard of absolute right. In social life he was most excellent company, a good conversationalist, entertained a high regard for ladies, and abounded in jokes which he could tell with fine relish. A kindness done him by a gentleman in early life was kept in remembrance, and the third generation of his friend received the reward. An injury was equally well stored away in his memory. Home was where he was supremely happy. He enjoyed it and loved his family down through all generations. Their wants and wishes claimed his best attention. In morals and religion his principle was to do right. He was familiar with the Bible, and could quote readily and accurately. If he had joined any of the prominent churches, it would have been the Baptist, for he believed in immersion. His inclinations, however, were towards the Society of Friends.

Thus, for more than half a century, Mr. Slingluff went in and out through Norristown, exercising a powerful and controlling interest in all public matters, and the community to-day feels the thrill of his energy and the force of his intellect. If he had lived in New York, and had had less conscience, his farsightedness would have given him control of measures that would have made him a millionaire. He would not take mean advantage of any position or knowledge. His advice made other men rich. He believed and acted on the principle that money permanently obtained must be obtained through the most exact honesty of purpose and practice. Where others made great profits he would not venture. His idea of honesty was in the heart and not in the iron-bound statutes of law makers. It would be a grand advance all along the line if the principle of our public men was built upon the basis of Mr. Slingluff's action. He believed in the theory and practice of supporting home industries, and would neither wear foreign goods nor have foreign wood in his house.

The following statistics of the different national banks of the county have been kindly furnished by the officers of the institutions:

The Bank of Montgomery County: Date of organization—First Directors elected October 14, 1815; chartered March 21, 1814. Capital at organization, \$400,000; authorized 8000 shares. Value of bank property, real estate costing \$5000 exchanged and \$500 received in the exchange. President, Francis Swaine; Cashier, Matthias Holstein; Directors, Francis Swaine, Matthew Roberts, Isaiah Wells, Levi Pawling, Zadock Thomas, Thomas Humphrey, Isaac Markley, Charles Rogers, Robert Earp, Enoch Mather, John Jones, Joseph Thomas, Philip Hahn.

At the present time, October, 1881: Capital, \$200,000. Amount of discounts, \$548,710.95. Amount of deposits, \$835,847.08. President, John Slingluff; Cashier, William F. Slingluff; Directors, John Slingluff, John S. Heebner, Albert Longaker, Henry G. Hunsicker, Jacob H. Grater, William Yeakle, Samuel Dresher, Henry A. Derr, Solomon Gilbert, Christian Hunsicker, William B. Rambo, William Stahler, Benjamin F. Whitby.

Bank of Pottstown: Date of organization—September 14, 1857. Capital at organization, \$100,000 (paid in capital, \$50,000). Business transacted in leased building. President, Henry Potts; Cashier, William Mintzer, Directors, Henry Potts, William D. Evans, J. D. Streeper, Joseph Bailey, Peter Y. Brendlinger, David Potts, Jr., Owen Stover, George Baugh, Frederick Brendlinger, Perry M. Hunter, Isaac Linderman, S. Gross Fry, William Price.

At the present time, October, 1881: Capital, \$300,000. Surplus fund, \$160,000. Amount of discounts, \$264,885.25. Value of bank property, \$13,000. Amount of deposits, \$570,470.56. President, Daniel Price; Cashier, Horace Evans; Directors, Daniel Price, Benjamin Bean, Abraham M. Stauffer, Edwin Morris, William Yocum, George Mull, Mark H. Richards, Ephraim Fritz, James F. Brendlinger.

First National Bank of Norristown, Pa.: Date of organization—March 23, 1864. Capital at organization, \$150,000. Value of bank property, assessed \$15,000 in 1864. President, James Hooven; Cashier, George Shannon; Directors, James Hooven, George McFarland, Daniel O. Hitner, Samuel Anders, Franklin Derr, Benjamin E. Chain, Stephen P. Stinson, Garret Bean, Wm. W. Taylor.

At the present time, October, 1881: Capital, \$150,000. Surplus, \$80,000. Amount of discounts, \$435,164.33. Value of bank property, \$15,000. Amount of deposits, \$703,797.45.

President, James Hooven; Cashier, George Shannon; Directors, James Hooven, Samuel Anders, Daniel O. Hitner, George S. Hallman, Benj. E. Chain, Francis G. Stinson, Christopher Heebner, Benjamin B. Hughes, Frank M. Hobson.

The First National Bank of Lansdale, Pa.: Date of organization—April 6, 1864 (commenced business June 16, 1864). Capital at organization, \$50,000. No property. President, John Y. Jenkins; Cashier, Chas. Y. Jenkins; Directors, John S. Jenkins, James Price, George S. Reiff, John M. Harley, Owen Hughes, Elias K. Freed, John Kindig, Dr. D. Levering Heist, James Roberts.

At the present time, October, 1881: Capital, \$100,000 (increased April 29, 1872). Amount of discounts, \$195,881.05 (October 1). Value of bank property, \$10,000. Amount of deposits, \$192,553.51 (October 1). President, Elias K. Freed; Cashier, Charles Y. Jenkins; Directors, Elias K. Freed, A. C. Godshall, James Swartley, James A. Hendricks, Daniel Cassel, Andrew Anders, Jacob R. Clemens.

First National Bank of Conshohocken, Pa.: Date of organization—March 13, 1873. Capital at organization, \$150,000. Value of bank property, \$16,000. President, Alan Wood, Jr.; Cashier, William McDermott; Directors, Alan Wood, Jr., George Bullock, Evan D. Jones, Michael O'Brien, William Davis, John Y. Crawford, Elias Hicks Corson, Augustus D. Saylor, Samuel Fulton.

At the present time, October, 1881: Capital, \$150,000. Amount of discounts, \$320,000. Value of bank property, \$16,000. Amount of deposits, \$331,000. President, George Bullock; Cashier, William McDermott; Directors, George Bullock, Evan D. Jones, Michael O'Brien, William Davis, Augustus D. Saylor, Lewis A. Lukens, Samuel Pugh, George Sampson, Hamilton Egbert.

National Bank of Schwenksville, Pa.: Date of organization—April 14, 1874. Capital at organization, \$50,000. No property. President, Jacob G. Schwenk; Cashier, John G. Prizer; Directors, Jacob G. Schwenk, George W. Steiner, Esq., H. W. Kratz, Esq., Albert Bromer, Isaac H. Johnson, Benjamin S. Alderfer, Philip Prizer, J. Warren Walt, James H. Price, Isaac L. Bauman.

At the present time, October, 1881: Capital, \$100,000. Amount of discounts, \$251,387.09. Value of bank property, \$6,500. Amount of deposits, \$173,434.83. President, Jacob G. Schwenk; Cashier, John G. Prizer; Directors, Jacob G.

Schwenk, H. W. Kratz, Esq., George W. Steiner, Esq., Isaac H. Johnson, Benjamin S. Alderfer, George D. Alderfer, Esq., Jacob S. Wagner, Abraham D. Alderfer, John Kepler.

Hatboro National Bank: Date of organization—May 4, 1875. Capital at organization, \$65,000. Value of bank property, \$9,000. President, I. Newton Evans; Cashier, S. Carey Ball; Directors, I. N. Evans, G. J. Mitchell, J. P. Hellings, Joseph Barnsley, S. S. Thompson, C. S. Rorer, George S. Teas, Comly Hampton, F. L. Worthington.

At the present time, October, 1881: Capital, \$52,000. Amount of discounts, \$125,000. Value of bank property, \$9,000. Value of deposits, \$155,000. President, I. Newton Evans; Cashier, James Van Horn; Directors, I. N. Evans, G. J. Mitchell, J. P. Hellings, Joseph Barnsley, S. S. Thompson, C. S. Rorer, George S. Teas, Comly Hampton, Isaac Warner, Jr.

Jenkintown National Bank: Date of organization—April 17, 1875. Capital at organization, \$50,000. Value of bank property—At the time of commencing business owned no property, but furniture and fixtures valued at \$3,000. President, Samuel W. Noble; Cashier, Andrew H. Baker; Directors, Samuel W. Noble, Charles F. Wilson, Thomas Williams, Jeremiah B. Larzelere, Joseph W. Hallowell, George D. Heist, Joseph Bosler, Charles Hewett, Jacob P. Tyson, Thomas T. Mather, John J. C. Harvey.

At the present time, October, 1881: Capital, \$70,000. Amount of discounts, \$143,925.79 (October 31, 1881). Value of bank property, \$15,000 (cost \$12,000, stands on books at \$10,000). Amount of deposits, \$121,824.41 (October 31, 1881). President, Samuel W. Noble; Cashier, Andrew H. Baker; Directors, Samuel W. Noble, Charles F. Wilson, Thomas Williams, Jeremiah B. Larzelere, Joseph W. Hallowell, George D. Heist, Joseph Bosler, John Thomson, Hutchison Smith, Edward Mather, Joseph A. Shoemaker.

Perkiomen National Bank: Date of organization—September 27, 1875. Capital at organization, \$100,000. Value of bank property, \$10,000. President, Michael Alderfer; Cashier, John N. Jacobs; Directors, Michael Alderfer, John N. Jacobs, John G. Hillegass, S. K. Barndt, Jacob Van Buskirk, M. A. Kratz, J. N. Klein, Daniel Clewell, Isaac L. Bauman, David G. Clemmer, Henry Kulp, Levi Fetterman.

At the present time, October, 1881: Capital, \$100,000. Amount of discounts, \$371,000. Value of bank property,

\$10,000. Amount of deposits, \$242,000. Officers same as above.

Farmers National Bank of Pennsburg, Pa.: Date of organization—May 6, 1876. Capital at organization, \$50,000. No property. President, William F. Reed; Cashier, A. F. Day; Directors, William F. Reed, Richard Markley, Jonathan P. Hillegass, Jesse Gery, Charles T. Waage, M. D., Daniel C. Stauffer, Tobias S. Reiff, George Deisher, William C. Raudenbush.

At the present time, October, 1881: Capital, \$50,000. Amount of discounts, \$93,034.24. No property. Amount of deposits, \$65,920.81. President, Edwin M. Benner; Cashier, A. F. Day; Directors, Edwin M. Benner, Richard Markley, Jonathan P. Hillegass, Jesse Gery, Tobias S. Reiff, David C. Stauffer, Thomas Barndt, George Deisher, Charles T. Waage, M. D.

Union National Bank of Souderton: Date of organization—May 12, 1876. Capital at organization, \$90,000. No property. President, Isaac G. Gerhart; Cashier, J. C. Landes; Directors, Isaac G. Gerhart, H. K. Godshall, G. H. Swartz, Abraham Sorver, Henry Ruth, Charles Loch, Augustus Thomas, Chas. Godshall, M. B. Bergery, John S. Moyer.

At the present time, October, 1881: Capital, \$90,000. Amount of discounts, \$163,358.59. Value of bank property, \$4,637. Amount of deposit, \$146,270. President, Isaac G. Gerhart; Cashier, J. C. Landes; Directors, Isaac G. Gerhart, Abraham Sorver, Henry Ruth, Charles Loch, Augustus Thomas, John S. Ruth, Isaac H. Moyer, Elias Shellenberger, John B. Moyer, E. H. Souder.

The Peoples National Bank of Norristown: Date of organization—September 24, A. D. 1881. Capital at organization, \$100,000. Value of bank property, \$12,000. President, A. A. Yeakle; Cashier, Lewis Styer; Directors, A. A. Yeakle, John J. Hughes, Felix F. Highley, John J. Corson, Issachar Johnson, William Schultz, Norman Egbert, Isaac Wanner, John E. Brecht.

At the present time, October, 1881: Capital, \$100,000. Value of bank property, \$12,000. Officers same as above.

## NORRITON TOWNSHIP.

By Dr. David Schrack.

It reads like an Arabian tale to be told that Pennsylvania, with her vast population and wealth, but two centuries since was a province, inhabited mainly by Indians, with a sparse population of whites. This great state is one of a number that form a country that has grown to such proportions in population, enterprise and power as to have excited the admiration of the world as well as its envy. The little township of Norriton is only a drop in this great nation of states and territories, but it has its history, and we turn with interest to its consideration.

King Charles II. of England gave to William Penn, in settlement of a claim of £16,000 due his father, Admiral Penn, the province called Pennsylvania—the word signifying Penn's wood-land—the proprietary taking a very liberal charter for the same in 1681. Penn sailed from England in August, 1682, with Captain Greenway, in the ship *Welcome*. The small-pox broke out among the passengers during their voyage, and a number died.

The ship landed at New Castle on the 27th of October, 1682. Penn and his immediate friends came up from Chester in an open boat or barge, and landed at the "Blue Anchor Tavern," which is said to have been the first house erected in Philadelphia. The whole scene was animating and cheering. On the shore were gathered most of the few inhabitants, who had preceded him, to welcome his arrival. The Indians, too, aware of his approach by previous signals, were seen in the throng, whilst others hastened to the scene in their canoes down the smooth waters of the creek. Penn was thirty-eight years of age at this time, and in the full vigor of strength and manhood. He says they found the provisions good and in great

quantities. "Wild turkeys, geese, pigeons, deer, peaches, oysters and corn are abundant." "The Indians," he writes, "bring us in seven or eight fat deer daily."

But three counties were established at first—Philadelphia, Chester and Bucks. Montgomery county originally formed a portion of Philadelphia county, from which it was separated by an act of Assembly on September 10, 1784. William Penn by a patent, dated October 2, 1704, granted to his son, William Penn, Jr., a tract of land on the north side of the Schuylkill, containing seven thousand four hundred and eighty-two acres, which he called the "Manor of Williamstadt," but since known as Norriton township. At this time William Penn, Jr., lived in this country, and the allowance money he received through his father from James Logan not being sufficient to defray the expenses of his youthful follies, he sold his manor, after holding it but a few days, to Isaac Norris and William Trent, on the 7th of October of the same year, for £850. On the 11th of January, 1712, Isaac Norris became the sole proprietor by purchasing for £500 Trent's right to the same. The bounds of this manor are thus set forth: "Beginning at a hickory by the said Skoolkill, being the corner of Plymouth township, thence northeast by the same township nine hundred and fifty perches to another hickory, thence northwest in the line of a land called Whitpain's township eleven hundred and sixty-nine perches to a corner oak in the line of the said proprietary's manor of Gilbert's, thence southwest along the said manor line eighteen hundred and forty-eight perches to a dog-tree by the said river Skoolkill, thence down the same river on the several courses thereof to the place of beginning."

By the year 1730 it appears the population had sufficiently increased within the manor for them to apply to the Court of Quarter Sessions of Philadelphia county to erect Norriton into a township, which was granted, with the same extent and boundaries already given. The greatest length of Norriton is nearly six miles, and width three and three-fourths, with a front of over two miles on the Schuylkill. By the erection of Norristown into a borough, in 1812, five hundred and twenty



acres were taken off, which, by the act of 1853, was increased to about two thousand acres. The surface of Norriton is slightly rolling, and the soil is a clay and red shale, which makes its appearance in this township as we proceed up the Schuylkill. Naturally the soil is much inferior to that of Plymouth, Whitemarsh, and some other townships, but through the influence of lime and fertilizers, accompanied with skillful farming, Norriton as a whole has been brought up to a high state of cultivation. The best and most fertile lands are found near and along the river. The land-holders that resided here in 1734 were Aaron Roberts, Job Pugh, Jesse Pugh, Ellis Roberts, John Hatfield, Bartle Bartlestol, Thos. Warner, Joseph Armstrong, William Hays, Nicholas Robinson, John Eastburn, John Coulston, Samuel Evans, Henry Johnson and Evan Hughes; Francis Meheny, Robert Roger, Robert Shannon, Chas. Morris and William Robinson, tenants; making in all at this time twenty land-holders and tenants in the township. Of this number fully one-third were Welsh, and but two or three of German origin, while at this day the latter constitute a large part of its population.

As both the township of Norriton and Norristown received their names from Isaac Norris, of Philadelphia, some account of him may be interesting, as very little has been published concerning him. He was born in London, July 26, 1671, and emigrated with his father, Thomas Norris, to Jamaica, in 1678. His father was killed in the great earthquake that occurred there June 7, 1692. Isaac Norris remained in Jamaica for fourteen years, during which time he was engaged in mercantile pursuits. At the expiration of this time he came to Philadelphia and entered upon a very successful business career. He was married March 7, 1693, to Mary Lloyd, youngest daughter of George Thomas Lloyd. Mr. Norris was a leading member of the Society of Friends, and was elected to the Assembly in 1700, and remained in that body for many years. His residence was chiefly at Fair Hill, which was in the vicinity of Broad street below Monument cemetery. For many years he was a Justice of Phila-

delphia county, and member of the Governor's Council. At his decease he was Chief Justice of the province. He was ever active in civil and religious matters, and died suddenly of an apoplectic fit in Germantown Meeting House, June 4, 1735, in the sixty-fourth year of his age. His will was dated January 17, 1731, and appointed his wife Mary, and sons Isaac, Charles and Samuel, jointly his executors. His eldest son, Isaac, was also distinguished for his services in public life. He was long an alderman, and for many years Speaker of the Assembly. Watson, in his Annals, says: "The name of Norris has been remarkable for its long continuance in public life, from the origin of the city of Philadelphia to the period of the Revolution. In September, 1759, Isaac Norris who had been almost perpetual speaker, resolved to resign his public employ, and in declining his re-election remarked thus: "You were pleased to make choice of me to succeed my father in the Assembly at the election of the year 1735;" thus showing the latter had been in the Assembly more than twenty-four years. He adds: "I never sought emolument for myself or family, and I remained at disadvantage to my private interest, only to oppose the measures of unreasonable men."

An anecdote is related of the speaker Norris, about the time of his resignation, when opposing the measures of Governor Morris' administration. Having left the chair, he concluded his speech with all the fire of youthful patriotism and the dignity of venerable old age combined, saying: "No man shall ever stamp his foot on my grave and say, 'curse him!' or, 'here lies he who basely betrayed the liberties of his country.'"

Isaac Norris, previous to his death, sold off several portions of his estate to settlers, amounting to about 1720 acres. He died in 1735. The family retained the property for some time after, though occasionally selling portions of it. On the 16th of November, 1738, they sold 100 acres to Cadwalader Evans, who, in 1748, sold the same to Dennes Conrad. The greater part of the land where Norristown now stands came in possession of Charles Norris, son of the aforesaid, who erected

a mill by the side of the Schuylkill, and made other valuable improvements. After his death his wife Mary sold, on the 17th of September, 1771, the mill and 543 acres to Colonel John Bull, of Limerick township, for £4,600. Included in the purchase was Barbadoes Island, which then contained eighty-eight acres. Colonel Bull continued to reside here till the spring of 1777, having sold it on the 2d of November previous to Rev. Dr. William Smith, of Philadelphia, for £6,000, who held it in 1784, when the county seat of Montgomery county was established at Norristown.

From the assessor's book it appears that in 1785 Norriton contained one hundred and eighty-one horses, two hundred and sixty-nine cattle, fourteen negro slaves, two riding-chairs, two grist-mills, four saw-mills, one tannery, and six taverns.

As the court-house and jail were not built for several years after the erection of the county, the courts had to be held wherever they could get the most suitable accommodations. The first court was held in this township at the public house kept by John Shannon, December 28, 1784. Frederick A. Muhlenberg, James Morris, Henry Scheetz and William Bean, Esqs., Justices, presided, the former being President. To show the spirit of the times we learn from the records of the court that one person for committing two larcenies was sentenced on the 28th of September, 1785, to receive on his bare back fifteen lashes well laid on, and on the following 8th of October the same number to be repeated for the second offence. "Negro William" was sentenced at the same time to receive nineteen lashes.

The oldest house of worship now standing in the county, if we except the Lower Merion meeting-house, is the Presbyterian church on the Germantown turnpike, about three miles northeast of Norristown, familiarly known as the Old Norriton Church. From the style and architecture of this building it must have been erected previous to 1740, which is the year of the earliest date found on the tomb-stones. The church is a small, one-story building, and, from its appearance, has undergone no material alteration since its erection. The oldest stone

in the grave-yard informs us of the death of Joseph Armstrong, who died April 29, 1740, aged four years. Among the patriots of the Revolution who lie buried here may be mentioned Col. Archibald Thompson, who died November 1, 1799, aged thirty-nine years, and Col. Christopher Stuart, who died May 27, 1799; aged fifty-one years. This church, it is said, was considerably injured during the Revolution by the soldiers using it as quarters. In consequence of these damages the Assembly passed an act September 17, 1785, permitting money to be raised by means of a lottery for its repair.

During the Revolutionary war, while the American troops were encamped at Valley Forge, the British soldiers, who occupied Philadelphia and vicinity, their videttes extending up at times as far as Barren Hill, made a reconnoissance in force, and at Jeffersonville, which was often an out-post of the American pickets, a sharp conflict took place, which resulted in the defeat of the Americans, who were largely outnumbered by the enemy. The British then fired the hotel standing on the present site, which was burned to the ground. It was soon after rebuilt, and the walls being in a good state of preservation were not torn down.

We are told that Indian creek, that flows through a portion of our township, received its name because of the Indians who once dwelt here. There is a tradition that a large number of Indians were encamped and made their home on the ground now occupied by the Indian Creek public school-house. They had wood and water there, and abundance of game, and plenty of fish in the Schuylkill below. Hard stones, called darts, which they used in shooting, and which were fastened on the ends of their arrows, are frequently found in this portion of the township.

In Buck's History of Montgomery County there is an interesting chapter concerning the Indians. Rev. John Campanius, a Swedish chaplain, who came to this country forty years before William Penn, and who resided on Tinicum Island, near the mouth of the Schuylkill, in speaking of the Indians, says: "Their way of living is very simple. With arrows pointed

with sharp stones they kill the deer and other creatures. They made axes from stones, which they fastened to sticks to kill the trees where they intended to plant. They cultivated the ground with a sort of hoe made from the shoulder blade of a deer or tortoise shell sharpened with stones and fastened with a stick. They made pots of clay mixed with powdered mussel shells burnt in fire, to prepare their food in. By friction they made fire from two pieces of hard wood. The trees they burnt down and cut into pieces for fire wood. On journeys they carried fire a great ways in spunk, or sponges found growing on the trees. They burnt down great trees and shaped them into canoes by fire and the aid of sharp stones. Men and women were dressed in the skins of wild animals. The women also made themselves garments from wild hemp and to knit twines the feathers of turkeys, eagles, etc., into blankets.

"The earth, the woods, and the rivers were provision stores of the Indians, for they eat all kinds of wild animals and productions of the earth—fowls, birds, fishes and fruit which they find within their reach. They shoot deer and birds with the bow and arrow. They eat generally but twice a day, morning and afternoon, the earth serving them for tables and chairs. They sometimes boil their meat and fish; at other times dry them in the sun or in the smoke, and thus eat them. They make bread out of the maize or Indian corn, which they prepare in a manner peculiar to themselves. They crush the grain between two great stones or on a large piece of wood; then moisten it with water and make it into small cakes, which they wrap up in corn leaves and thus bake them in the ashes. In this manner they make their bread. They can fast, when necessity compels them, for many days. When traveling or lying in wait for their enemies, they take with them a kind of bread made of Indian corn and tobacco juice to alleviate hunger and quench thirst. Both men and women smoke tobacco, which is found in great abundance. When a white person visited them in their dwellings, they immediately spread on the ground pieces of cloth and fine mats or skins, and then produced the best they had, such as bread, deer, elk or bear's

meat, fresh fish, and bear's fat to serve in lieu of butter. These attentions must not be despised, else their friendship will turn to hatred.

"When an Indian visited his friends, the whites, the table was uncovered at one end, for it was his custom to jump on the table and sit with his legs crossed, not being accustomed to chairs, and then ask for whatever he would like to eat."

One of the most distinguished men that resided in this township was David Rittenhouse. He was the oldest son of Mathias Rittenhouse, and was born April 8, 1732, at his father's place on the Wissahickon creek, near Germantown. While David was an infant, his father, with his family, removed to a farm he had purchased in this township. The place is a short distance east of the Norriton church, on the turnpike.

An excellent article on David Rittenhouse appeared in the May (1882) number of *Harpers' Magazine*, extracts from which we quote here:

"At the age of eight years he made a complete water-mill in miniature. At seventeen he made a wooden clock, and afterward one in metal. Having thus tested his ability in an act in which he had never received instructions, he erected a building by the road-side and set up in business as a clock and mathematical instrument maker. His days were given to labor and his nights to study. He solved the most abstruse mathematical and astronomical problems, discovering the method of fluxions. At an early age he was master of a number of the languages, especially Latin and Greek. After three years of labor he constructed what he called an orrery. Around a brass sun revolved ivory or brass panels in elliptical orbits properly inclined towards each other, and with velocities varying as they approached their aphelia or perihelia. Jupiter and his satellites, Saturn with his rings, the moon and her phases and the exact time, quantity and duration of her eclipses, the eclipses of the sun and their appearance at any particular place on the earth, were all actually displayed in miniature. The relative situations of the members of the solar system at any period of time for five thousand years, backward or for-

ward, could be shown in a moment. It is not difficult," says the writer, "to appreciate the enthusiasm with which this proof of a rare genius was received more than a century ago, but it is entertaining to interpret the expressions of it." "A most beautiful machine. It exhibits almost every motion in the astronomical world," wrote John Adams, who was always a little cautious about praising the work of other people. "There is not the like in Europe," said Dr. Gordon, the English historian. His friend, Thomas Jefferson, wrote, "A machine far surpassing in ingenuity of contrivance, accuracy and utility anything of the kind ever before constructed. He has not, indeed, made a world, but has by imitation approached nearer its maker than any man who has lived from the creation to this day." Two universities vied with each other for its possession, and it was finally purchased by Dr. Witherspoon, of Princeton College, for £300.

Wondering crowds went to see it, and after the Legislature of Pennsylvania had viewed it in a body they passed a resolution giving Rittenhouse £300 as a testimony of their high sense of his mathematical genius, and entered into an agreement with him to have a still larger one made for which they were to pay £400.

Said a learned English author: "There is not another society" [alluding to the American Philosophical Society] "in the world that can boast of a member such as Mr. Rittenhouse, theorist enough to encounter the problem of determining from a few observations the orbit of a comet, and also mechanic enough to make with his own hands an equal altitude instrument, a transit telescope, and a time-piece."

He aided in fixing the boundaries between New York and Pennsylvania. In 1770 he prepared for publication by the American Philosophical Society a paper giving the method of ascertaining the true time of the sun's passing the meridian, that attracted the attention of the Saxon astronomer, Von Zach. In March, 1776, he was elected a member of the Assembly from the city of Philadelphia, and later a member of the convention which met July 15, 1776, and drafted the first consti-

tution of Pennsylvania. He was Treasurer of the state, and appointed by Washington as the first Director of the Mint on April 14, 1792.

Between 1780 and 1796 he wrote no less than seventeen papers for the Philosophical Society upon optics, magnetism, electricity, meteors, logarithms and other mathematics, the improvement of time-keepers, the expansion of wood by heat, astronomical observations upon comets, transits and eclipses, and similar abstruse topics. He succeeded Franklin as President of the American Philosophical Society, and was elected a Fellow of the Academy of Arts and Science of Boston in 1782. The College of New Jersey gave him the honorary degree of Master of Arts in 1772 and Doctor of Laws in 1789. The College of William and Mary, in Virginia, gave him the honorary degree of Master of Arts in 1784. But the highest distinction he ever received of this character, and the highest in the world then attainable by a man of science, was his election as a foreign member of the Royal Society of London in 1795.

No higher tribute was ever accorded to human rectitude than was offered to him by the author of the Declaration of Independence. "Nothing could give me more pleasure," wrote that statesman in a private letter to his daughter Martha, "than your being much with that worthy family, wherein you will see the best examples of rational life and learn to imitate them."

We have in this township a number of places of business, the most extensive of which is the manufactory of cotton and woolen goods, known as the Trooper Mill, the firm being Joseph Shaw & Co. [The Trooper Mill has not been in use for a number of years, and is now fast crumbling into decay.] This mill is associated with the Blue Mill of Norristown, another manufactory of the same kind of goods, and owned by the same firm. The two factories do a large business, and give employment to a number of men and women. James Shaw, who died April 26, 1881, was for many years an active member of this firm, and gave his personal supervision to the Trooper Mill. Mr. Shaw was a man



of genius, thoroughly master of his business in all its details, and the great success of this company was largely due to his excellent judgment and business tact. He amassed a fortune in his business, and gave liberally of his means to religious and benevolent causes. He was chairman of the committee appointed to build the Centennial Presbyterian Church of Jeffersonville, and contributed very largely of his means to its erection. His remains lie in the beautiful burying-ground by the side of this building.

Norriton has five public schools, all in a flourishing condition; two churches, the Centennial Presbyterian and the Norriton, the latter being the mother of all other Presbyterian churches in the surrounding country. Sabbath-school is regularly held for religious instruction in several other places, with good attendance. The Centennial church, built in 1876, at a cost of \$20,000, is very finely situated, commanding an extended view of the Schuylkill valley and the hills of Valley Forge. It is one of the handsomest and most substantial structures to be found in the rural districts.

Much might be written concerning the history of this township, but our paper has already grown too long, and we forbear to trespass further on your patience.

In closing we would advert to the fact that two hundred years ago the region we occupy was a densely wooded wilderness. Now we behold a country rich in soil, beautiful in scenery, dotted thickly with delightful homes, evidencing the highest state of prosperity and thrift. No wonder that Washington exclaimed, when going from Valley Forge with a brother officer to Whitmarsh, when looking upon its magnificent scenery and natural beauty, "Truly this is a country worth fighting for!"

What changes since the days of Penn! We can only speak of them to say that the boundaries of every science have been widened and greatly enlarged. The wonders of the distant heavens have been revealed through the powers of the telescope; new worlds and systems have been brought into view and given place on our maps; and we find the boundless

space above filled up with worlds where we once thought there was but an empty void. We have been taught of the sublime march of the world and the unvarying laws that govern it. Geology has demonstrated its immense age, and chemistry analyzed its thousand substances. Electricity has encircled the earth with lightning zones, and continents are spanned with iron links of swiftness. Science has cabled the great ocean and made it the repository of man's communication. Truth and enlightenment have gained great victories over ignorance and error, and learning, with joyful steps, has trodden an ignorant land. Our nation has passed through perils and critical periods under intense strains that would have destroyed any other government. The dark clouds of war, freighted with desolation and death, have come and gone, but our country still stands as a beacon light, the hope of the down-trodden and the oppressed of every clime, drawing its inspiration from the principles of Penn and the teachings of the Pilgrim Fathers and those noble men who indicted the immortal Declaration of Independence. And whatever may be said of our political systems, the tendency of the times is for a higher and better standard of excellence and character; and though we of the nineteenth century can be said to but behold the early morning of that bright day, future generations will gaze upon its midday splendor.

[The writer is indebted for much information to Scott's Historical Atlas of Montgomery County, Buck's History of Montgomery County, Watson's Annals of Philadelphia, old papers, etc.]

## THE SOCIETY OF FRIENDS.

By Dr. Hiram Corson.

Dr. Hiram Corson was appointed to respond to the toast "The Society of Friends" at a banquet of the Montgomery County Historical Society, February 22, 1882. He was not able to be present, but sent the following interesting paper, which was read on the occasion by his son, C. F. Corson, Esq :

I regret my inability to be with you this evening to take the part assigned me. I might with great propriety ask to be excused from any reply on this occasion; first, because I am not and never was a member of the society of Friends, and also because an indisposition of several months' duration has quite unfitted me for its proper performance. But as every member should try to bear a part of the labor needed for success in the movement, and as I can look back on an unbroken line of my maternal Quaker ancestry, involving a period of two hundred years, and as I have had all my life daily social intercourse with Friends, I feel that I owe you thanks for assigning to me the pleasant duty of recording what I know of the part borne by them in the settlement of our state.

It is not right that evil should be done that good may come of it, but yet I often feel that to the terrible persecution of Friends in the "old country" do we owe the settlement of this portion of our state by a class of people unsurpassed at the time for their devotion to right principles and their opposition to every species of "wrong and outrage with which earth was filled" at that time. What a blessing to us that the persecution of our ancestors became so unendurable that they were willing to face the dangers of this (then) wilderness filled with a rude and savage people, rather than yield a single principle which they cherished, and which they had resolved to maintain. These were the people who first settled this region,

and we may look back upon them with pride and not with regret, as may be done in some other states settled by men who left their country for their country's good, or by intolerants, who having fled from persecution, became persecutors in turn.

William Penn, in a letter dated 25th, Eighth-month, 1681, said: "I eye the Lord in obtaining this country, and I desire that I may not be unworthy of his love, but do that which may answer his kind providence and serve his truth and people, *that an example may be set up to the nations.*" And here we might pause to look around us for the fruits of that example set before the world by the early Friends in this region. They were examples to us in their opposition to slavery, to oaths, to intemperance, to all forms of taking human life, and in their earnest advocacy of the golden rule, "to do unto others as they would that others should do unto them." The influence of their example has modified the religious intolerance of New England and abolished slaveholding in Virginia, has stamped the name of Brotherly Love on our great city, and immortalized their principles of peace and justice in the name given by them to this great Commonwealth.

Prior to the time when this state was ceded to William Penn, the western part of New Jersey had been occupied by Quaker emigrants, on lands obtained from Edward Byllinge, a Friend to whom William Penn became a trustee. Some were there as early as 1675. During the next two or three years several vessels came to West Jersey with eight hundred emigrants, most of whom were Friends; so that in 1681, when Penn received his grant for forty thousand square miles of land, constituting this noble state, Friends in England were eager to escape from the cruelties practiced on them, and began at once to come over to get homes on the west side of the river Delaware, a land dedicated by William Penn to freedom for all from religious persecution. In the next year, 1682, came the founder himself, and many Friends; men like himself, devoted to furnishing homes for the persecuted, without regard to their religious belief or nationality. How great must

have been the joy of those persecuted, and, at that time, despised people, to hear that there was a land of freedom to which they were invited, where they could get lands and homes almost without money and without price, and where they could worship without fear of molestation. The jails of England were filled with these suffering people, who before this time were helpless to avert the stripes and imprisonment to which they were daily subject. But then, at the invitation of their great leader, the exodus from oppression began. They came by families, came for peaceful homes, came never to return, came to establish communities devoted to the maintenance of those great principles which they believed to spring from that "Inner Light" with which the great Creator has endowed every human being to light up the path of duty. In speaking the sentiments of William Penn, we speak the sentiments of those people. And then these principles were to be tested.

The land had been ceded to William Penn by the King of Great Britain, but it was in possession of men who believed themselves to be owners. In the eastern states the rights of the natives had been wholly disregarded, and the land wrested from them by the sword; they were driven back mile by mile and their lands seized by white faced emigrants, professing Christians, and it was only natural that the Indians should believe these Quakers would pursue a similar policy. But such conduct was not in accord with the principles held by William Penn and the Friends who came with him. The world knows the rest. The treaty made by the Friends and Indians, without an oath and which never was broken, has been spoken of and honored in every land the world over.

Of all the Friends who came to settle here in response to the invitation of their great leader, there was not one but was in accord with him in his dealing with the children of the forest. And how cheering the result! From the day of the meeting under the great elm tree where they assured the Indians of their desire to live peacefully and deal honorably with them, there was no fear of harm from them, as the Friends sought out desirable places for homes in the wilderness adja-

cent to the Delaware river. Thus we find that the whole river front from Philadelphia to Easton became dotted with settlements of Quakers. I am conversant with their settlements in Bucks county at Solebury, Buckingham, Wrightstown and Penns Manor; in Montgomery county at Horsham, Abington, Gwynedd, Whitemarsh, Plymouth and Merion; at Radnor in Delaware county, and largely in Chester county. In all these places we can still find some of their early homes, where they were free to worship as they pleased. So when William Penn left them in 1684, he left behind him a colony of seven hundred people, most of whom were Friends, living in peace with the Indians and earnestly engaged in providing for their families and in setting up meetings in accordance with the discipline used in England. Time will not allow me to recount the many striking incidents which prove how anxious they were to promote the comforts of all within their settlements.

Friends did not forget, while striving to get comfortable homes, their religious duties, but also established meetings for worship wherever a few families were gathered together. They were not ignorant people; many of them indeed were fine scholars, and therefore were early engaged in providing facilities for educating their children. It has no doubt been observed by you all that in every Quaker community where there is a meeting house there is also a school house. Schools were early established, and in 1695 the Yearly Meeting advised "that school masters and mistresses, who were faithful Friends and well qualified, be encouraged in all counties, cities and great towns where there may be need, and that care be taken that poor Friends' children may freely partake of such education as may tend to their benefit and advantage in order to apprenticeship." They always had an eye to utility in education. Even before that time, in 1687, only five years from their first appearance in the state, William Bradford, printer, laid before the meeting proposals for printing the Bible, and it was directed that each monthly meeting in the county should use its endeavors to forward the same. This was done. In 1689, Friends, through their meetings, established a school in

Philadelphia, which in the next year was made a "free school to all those who choose to come, little children excepted who are learning their primers, in which was taught reading, writing, arithmetic, merchants' accounts, Latin, Greek, and Hebrew." Again in 1690 William Bradford applied to Friends for assistance to enable him to continue his printing press in Philadelphia. The Yearly Meeting advised that subscriptions be made for the purpose, which was done and report made to the Quarterly Meeting. These things show how careful Friends were, not only to provide education for their children, but also to diffuse information among the people. Being intelligent, honest and capable, they held important places of trust and honor in communities, and in managing the affairs of the county; and so faithful were they and efficient, that they established for themselves that good name for uprightness which the society has maintained even to the present day among the people. Hundreds of people not Friends can testify to their worth and to their beneficent influence in Eastern Pennsylvania.

## LOCAL HISTORY.

By William J. Buck.

In response to the toast assigned me, I shall endeavor to be brief. Local history is the parent of general history, and as it descends in its subjects, so it correspondingly increases in interest. I mean from the several nations of the earth to our own country, thence to the state, the county, the town or township, and finally to our neighborhood, families and homes. Were it not for this, interest in time would diminish in Mount Vernon, Independence Hall and Valley Forge, and how many more places, were I prone, could be enumerated. What has made the Catskill and Sleepy Hollow so delightful to visit but the pen of the local historian? "There is," says Washington Irving, "an inexpressible charm imparted to every place that has been celebrated by the historian, or immortalized by the poet; a charm that dignifies it in the eyes of a stranger and endears it to the heart of the native inhabitant."

In a letter written by Robert Burns in 1785, he says: "I am hurt to see other towns, rivers, woods and hills of Scotland immortalized in song, while my dear native baileries of Carrick, Cyle and Cunningham, famous both in ancient and modern times, a country the birth-place of many famous philosophers, soldiers and statesmen, and the scene of many important events recorded in history, are neglected. Yet we have never had one Scotch poet of any eminence to make the fertile banks of Irvine, the romantic woodlands and sequestered scenes on Ayr, and the healthy mountainous courses and winding sweep on Doon, emulate the Tay, Forth, Ettrick and Tweed. This is a complaint I would gladly remedy. But, alas! I am unequal to the task, both in genius and education." This was only a year preceding the publication of the first edition of his poems.



Yet how short a time elapsed before he did remedy the neglect of which he complained; before he invested the Irvine, the Ayr and the Doon with charms more attractive than their own surpassing beauty, more permanent perhaps than their own existence, inspired thereto, as he confesses, chiefly through the power of the local historian.

A love for local history is based on a love for home and country, for kindred and for friends, and it is as well a promoter of patriotism and an incentive to virtuous emulation. It is elevating, refining, and above all instructive, because it continually presents us with the results of experience. Hence it has been well said that history should make men wise by the lessons it taught from example. And what has brought us hither but a regard for local history? And what are the chief objects of this society but its preservation? My sympathies are with you; they have been interested in the cause long, long ago, until it has become a part of my nature, and I and my early love I am sure will never separate, or worse, fall out.

The Historical Society of Montgomery County has a mission to perform in the collection and preservation of materials, for its area is rich in historical associations. Here have once lived the Indians, followed by the Swedes, the Dutch, the English, the Welsh, the Germans, the Scotch, and the Irish, whose descendants are now the citizens of a mighty republic. More than two and a quarter centuries ago the records of the Holland Company speak of the great beaver trade on the Schuylkill. The Little Schuylkill in consequence was called by the Delaware Indians "Tamaquan," signifying the Beaver stream. Coming down later we find a most singular contest between the navigators and the shore men for the mastery of this romantic stream. Graeme Park is rich in history, literature and romance of the colonial period. Then later we have Whitmarsh, Valley Forge, Barren Hill, and all that precedes and follows the battle of Germantown. Here David Rittenhouse pursued his philosophical studies, and John James Audubon commenced the greatest work on birds yet known. In these limits, too, was born a Major General

of the Revolution, a speaker of the first Congress of 1789, and three Governors of Pennsylvania. I can not ascend our hill-tops to view the magnificent scenery spread around, or pass up and down the valley of the Schuylkill without feeling emotions for the great events that have transpired here in the past, while the present astonishes for the enterprise it exhibits on every hand, and I am thus puzzled for what will happen in the next two centuries.

To the members of this society, as well as to others engaged in the pursuit and collection of material for local history, I have, without going far away, an illustrious example to present. With John F. Watson, a fellow member of the Pennsylvania Historical Society, I became acquainted in the beginning of 1854. This acquaintance ripened into a friendship that resulted in a correspondence between us for several years. In my first visit he stated how, through his long and close attention to business, his antiquarian researches had afforded him great pleasure and satisfaction in what otherwise might have proved a rather monotonous existence. In 1814 he was elected cashier of the Bank of Germantown, which office he held from its organization until 1847, when he was chosen Secretary and Treasurer of the Philadelphia, Germantown and Norristown Railroad Company. This office he occupied until the summer of 1859, and had attained his eightieth year, when he resigned to return to private life. As will be observed, his last two official positions continued for the long period of forty-five years, in all of which time it is said he lost but a few days through sickness. We can not fail to admire this remarkable industry of the man and his devotion to his business for so long a period, and in the meantime turning as he did his antiquarian and historical labors into pleasure and amusement to himself, and for instruction to the public without any expectation of pecuniary reward. Such a man may well be regarded a benefactor, and though now for some time dead, his works survive to be read, admired and cherished. His life, therefore, presents a remarkable example of industry and close application to a very advanced age; clearly demonstrating in addition that a favorite

hobby can be pursued with success by proper management so as not to interfere with the duties that any one may properly owe unto himself, his family or others, and yet redound to the general benefit.

I shall now compare Montgomery county, through its grand memories of the past, to a majestic oak that has been all but a century in growing, bearing aloft amongst its several branches, for the seekers thereof, clusters of the choicest fruit. Its leaves, the pages of its history, drop off with every year, but to be renewed that its soil may be invigorated. Let its possessors care for it. May it yet be long before it will show symptoms of decay. The storm and lightning of a score of years ago tried it, and caused some of its product prematurely to drop to the ground; it fortunately was but a trial of its strength, and it stands now more noble and erect than ever. An enumeration of its yield was made not two years ago, and by the next decade it promises a still larger increase. Time adds to its trunk every year a cycle. To treasure that oak, to perpetuate a knowledge thereof, not only when it came forth a mere sprout in 1784, but of its parent trunk planted in 1682, to which it owed its existence and found its protection—this is now the legacy which has fallen to the Montgomery County Historical Society, and may it prove no unworthy heir. The growth and progress of this tree is worthy the charge. The soil has proved rich and productive with no sign of exhaustion. Grow on, then, noble, tree! Flourish centuries more! May your products be worthy of you, and your shadow never be less! Now every fragment of old times is like this tree and has a history; it gives an inkling of something characteristic of the circumstances and manners of its day, and so sets the mind at work. To bring forth and perpetuate this information, however, devolves on the local historian.

## THE SWEDES.

By Dr. George W. Holstein, in response to a toast, 1882.

As a lineal descendant of those Swedes who crossed the ocean as early as 1636, I am deeply conscious of the compliment thus paid to their memory, and yet I feel that it is justly due, in view of the results accomplished by them and their influence in moulding the destinies of this great country.

Trained at home in a love for the practical teachings of the "Sermon on the Mount" and the general truths of revealed religion, they early planted the Cross of Calvary upon these shores, and in all their intercourse with the natives and others illustrated the principles heralded thereby.

By fair and honorable dealings they gained the confidence of the Indians, and lived among them upon the most amicable terms. Their influence over them was remarkable, as was evinced by many of the natives attaching themselves to the educational and religious institutions established by them, thus rendering much more easy the great work accomplished by William Penn, who came here over forty years later as the representative of the English Crown, supported by all the vast influence of that powerful nation, commissioned by King Charles II. to act as Proprietary Governor of the Province of Pennsylvania, having received a grant of land lying north of that occupied by Lord Baltimore, and west of the river Delaware. This was in lieu of a claim of sixteen thousand pounds due him for services rendered by his father, Rear Admiral Penn, a distinguished officer of the British navy. The charter for this grant still hangs in the office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth at Harrisburg, dated March 4, 1681. William Penn reached here in October, 1682. And now, in this bi-centennial year of that event, when it is proposed to cele-

brate it with distinguished honors, while I would not for one moment detract from the glory to which I believe he is eminently entitled, yet I do not wish the fact to be lost sight of that the Swedes were among the first to establish friendly relations with the natives; that the first translation into the Indian dialect was the Swedish catechism by Rev. John Campanius, a Swedish missionary.

In 1642, six years after their arrival, Col. John Printz, of the Swedish army, was sent over as Governor of the colony. His instructions, dated Stockholm, August 15, 1642, contained twenty-eight articles, embracing his duties: first, in relation to the Swedes; second, to the Europeans living in the vicinity; and third, to the Indians. With respect to these latter, the Governor was directed to confirm, immediately after his arrival, the treaty with them by which they had conveyed to the Swedes the western shore of the Delaware from Cape Henlopen to the Falls of Sanhickan, since called Trenton, and as much inland as gradually should be wanted. Also to ratify the bargain for land on the east side, and in these and future purchases to regard them as the rightful owners of the country.

He was to treat all the neighboring tribes in the most equitable and humane manner, so that no injury, by violence or otherwise, should be done to them by any of his people. He had also in charge to accomplish, as far as practicable, the embracing of Christianity by them, and their adoption of the manners and customs of civilized life.

He was accompanied by Rev. John Campanius as chaplain of the colony. In 1653, Governor Printz was succeeded by Governor John Claudius Rising, who soon after invited ten of the leading Indian chiefs to a friendly conference. It was held at Tinicum on the 17th of June, 1654.

He saluted them in the name of the Swedish Queen, with assurances of her favor, put them in mind of the purchase of lands already made, and requested a continuation of their friendship. He distributed various presents among them, and gave a good entertainment to them and their company. They were much pleased, and assured him of faithful affection.

One of the chiefs, Naaman, made a speech, during which he remarked that "the Swedes and the Indians had been as one body and one heart, and that thenceforward they should be as one head," and at the same time making a motion as if he were tying a strong knot; and then made this comparison, "that as the calabash was round without any crack, so they should be a compact body without any fissure."

Campanius represents the Indians as having been frequent visitors at his grandfather's house in Delaware county, which gave him an opportunity of studying their language, in which he became quite proficient.

In the conversations he had there with them, he succeeded in impressing upon their minds the great truths of Christianity and awakening a deep interest among them, hence his translation of Luther's Catechism.

They attached great value to this act, as evincing a deeper interest in their welfare than that indicated by mere lip service, and it thenceforward proved a bond of union, binding them in acts of devotion and fealty to the Swedes.

The Swedes gave the great and good Penn a most cordial welcome and the benefit of their influence and experience, for which he was truly grateful, and which he kindly acknowledged in a letter to his friends at home in 1683.

This society does itself credit in thus honoring the memory of a people who were among the earliest to locate in this vicinity, and who established regulations and usages that have exercised a refining and elevating influence in shaping the morals and habits of the community around us. I thank you for the opportunity of saying thus much in their behalf.

## MEN OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY IN STATE AND NATIONAL LEGISLATION.

By Hon. A. B. Longaker, in response to a toast, 1882.

Nearly one hundred years ago, by the legislative mandate of the General Assembly, on the 10th day of September, 1784, there sprang into municipal being a county; and as our wise fathers and good mothers gathered at the christening, she was baptized in the name of Montgomery. As she assumed her rank amongst the sisterhood of counties, she was numerically designated as the thirteenth sister. Although the thirteenth in number (and however paradoxical it may seem), yet it may be regarded as historically accurate that by birth she is to be considered the tenth sister. This anomaly occurs from the fact that the parent county, Philadelphia, together with Bucks and Chester, in origin are coeval with the formation of the provincial government, and hence these three are historically known as the provincial counties. In territory the new county extended northward to the counties of Berks and Northampton and was bounded on the east by the whole of Bucks; on the south by the remaining portion of the parent county; and on the west by the county of Chester.

Another marvelous characteristic of this new sister was, that simultaneously with her creation she lost her babyhood, because she had conferred upon her "all and singular the jurisdictions, rights, powers, privileges, liabilities, communities and restrictions," as fully and as largely as had theretofore been conferred upon and were thus enjoyed by her elder sisters. To start her in the full dress of womanhood, provisions were made to locate and erect a court-house and prison on territory somewhat adjacent to the Schuylkill river and Stony creek. In order to select a site and purchase the ground, Henry Paw-

ling, Jr., Jonathan Roberts, George Smith, Robert Shannon and Henry Cunnard were appointed Commissioners. In the course of time, all else necessary to a complete county municipality ensued, and good "Old Montgomery," as her sons delight to call her, started upon a prosperous career, and has ever since enjoyed an illustrious history.

I am admonished, however, that the peculiar duty assigned me is to speak of the "Men of Montgomery County in State and National Legislation." Returning again to 1784, and strolling along the pathway of our public men to this day, a period running through three full generations of men, I realize the fact that to have produced only a catalogue of the names of the great, good and illustrious men who have been the actors in state and national legislation involves an inquiry demanding thorough research and much labor; and as want of time has precluded an opportunity to gain such definite information, I will be compelled to mention only those whose names readily occur to a momentary recollection. And after all, it is, perhaps, more pleasing and instructive to speak of the principles of men, rather than of their personality.

Man, unable to penetrate the future, delights to push his inquiries into the rich treasures of the hidden past, essaying the most active researches to interrogate his early ancestors and to discover all that is good and meritorious, and wisely to let sleep in its dusty oblivion all that is bad and censurable. Stimulated by this laudable desire, the thought of the Historical Society found accurate expression in the toast assigned me, and I can well realize the disappointment which here ensues because I bring to your intellectual feast only a few rough stones instead of polished jewels.

The important local events which preceded, attended and followed the formation of this county, are so indissolubly connected with its legislative actors, that a discussion of the former necessarily sheds its lustre upon the latter; and to speak of our illustrious dead in legislation by a discussion of principles rather than to pronounce their eulogy, or to attempt a biography of the living, will best serve my purpose on this occasion.



A pleasing recollection, however, recalls the names of a few, and some of whom were very important factors in state and national legislation contemporary with the origin of the county. The name of no one is more prominent in national legislation than that of the Hon. Jonathan Roberts. The influences of his ever active home life and political efforts live throughout the early and middle history of our county, and all that was progressive and conducive to the public welfare found in him an able advocate, as is fully attested in his earnest work. A few who were his contemporaries, and those of a later day, are suggested by the names of Gross, Markley, Pawling, Sterigere, Freedley, Fornance, Fry, Yost, McNair and Jones, all in national legislation (the living are omitted). To enumerate in state legislation would involve a long catalogue. Let it suffice to remark that the legislators were almost without exception men far above the average of many other counties, and they have been repeatedly honored by official positions conferred by the state at large. In the House of Representatives, three were honored with the position of Speaker; in the Senate, one. Canal Commissioners and Auditor Generals have been selected from amongst us, and our county deservedly and emphatically is entitled to be called the "mother of Governors." Three of her sons, Porter, Shunk and Hartranft, have been honored Governors of this state, and a fourth, General Andrew Porter, the Governor of a sister state.

Mr. President, I can sincerely say that I am honored and delighted to be present with you at this intellectual feast; "it pays." I hope to meet you on many like occasions.

## SOMETHING ABOUT LOWER MERION.

By Miss Margaret B. Harvey.

My knowledge of Lower Merion was chiefly learned upon a farm, my early home. You, my friends, may be able to put your finger upon a certain little yellow patch in one of John Levering's township maps, but if you were to drive along the old Lancaster road to-day, the road now called in fashionable parlance Montgomery avenue, and try to locate that yellow patch upon the green earth, your attempt would be vain. The landmarks of my ancestral home have been so completely obliterated that you could probably find the ruins of ancient Troy far more readily than you could the old walls of this quaint, stone Pennsylvania farm house.

Do I not well remember the grand catalpa at the gate, the dense grove of towering trees, the tall ash, the stately poplar, the fragrant-blossomed wild cherry? Do I not well remember the wilderness of old-fashioned roses, of creamy snowballs, of odor-breathing lilacs? Do I not well remember the long, rambling stone mansion, with broad piazza, sloping roof, and picturesque dormer windows?

Now do not say to yourselves, this writer is giving us personal history; we care only for matters of general historic interest. I may be unfortunate in my mode of stating the fact, none the less is it true that my ancestral home is, or was, or ought to be, a locality of historic interest to the people of Lower Merion at least. I speak of the plants, small and great, which adorned a certain spot of ground in Lower Merion, because so many of them were planted by a man who was in advance of his time, in his intense interest in horticulture and arboriculture; so that one of the first historic facts relating to the township which I ever learned, was that Edward Harvey, a lineal descendant of Fitz Herve, one of the Norman compan-

ions of William, the Conqueror; descended also from one of Richard Strongbow's attendant earls; and also from one of George Fox's earliest noble converts to Quakerism; Edward Harvey, a finished gentleman and scholar, unjustly deprived of his rightful inheritance in Ireland, and seeking to adorn his new home in the Quaker state of Pennsylvania, was the first to introduce into Lower Merion the ailanthus tree. Smile if you will; call this an anti-climax; but have you never heard that he who makes two blades of grass grow where one grew before may be called a benefactor to humanity? In those days the ailanthus was prized as the rare tree from "Paradise," the far-famed "Tree of Heaven." He who sought to give to his beloved home of adoption a precious plant, never lived to discover his mistake; and if he cultivated the ill-scented ailanthus, he also strove to nurture the fig and rose.

And why did I speak of the low, many-windowed stone mansion, whose odd nooks and corners, whose carved mantelpiece and bull's-eye window-pane in the dining-room, whose black "cubby-hole" in the garret, moved my childish admiration? Was it because the latest built wing was erected in 1762, or because the oldest portion was older than any date could tell, or because later neighbors remember when all the beauty of the house was spoiled by attempted modern improvements? Or because the rooms were furnished with shabby, faded Brussels carpets, and ugly, big-patterned ingrains, relicts of a past time of grandeur, when common folks had to put up with rag floor-coverings and with a stiff hair sofa and tall side-board, carved, solid, mahogany bedsteads and tables, and other quaint pieces which we degenerate younger ones thought decidedly out of date, and despised accordingly; or because certain cedar chests held mysterious boxes which we never expected to see opened, but which we have since learned contained old miniatures, bits of rare lace, and precious pieces of silver engraved with the family crest, a leopard grasping a shamrock in its extended paw? Oh, no! But because my dear old home, as I remember it, represents better than any other example of which I know the very ideal of a Pennsyl-

vania mansion of times past—of a time extending from the days of Penn himself to the last decade. I, as you see me, am yet a young woman, but I have lived to witness a tremendous upheaval. Lower Merion but repeats the history of the world at large; my grandfather's farm, Lilac Grove, repeats the history of Lower Merion. Formerly, farm houses such as that in which he lived were to be found everywhere throughout the whole district, but they will soon become so rare as to excite remark when seen.

My grandfather's house, once considered elegant, has given place to a modern palace, a triumph of art and wealth; the trees and shrubs tended by his hand as a labor of love, are replaced by the marvelous leaf and color creations of the landscape gardener.

The era of gray stone mansions of ample proportions, built only for comfort and hospitality, is passing away; the era of ginger-bread castles and crazy-patchwork palaces has come; and we, who inherit traditions of old days, can only look on and wonder, if we do not precisely deplore. But, whether for good or for ill, humanity marches forward; for good we must have faith to believe, if we would not have the past, however we may love to dwell upon it, dwarf our future. Humanity *is* progressing in Lower Merion; it is rapidly solving all the old problems as to how man shall live hygienically, virtuously, wisely and nobly. It is not without effort that I say it, but I, who represent the remaining few in Lower Merion, standing as it were between the past and the future, looking lovingly, even tearfully backward, and yet longingly, trustfully forward—I can say that God may have a use for a red-and-yellow palace, just as He had for a gray farm house. If, by removing the latter to make way for the former, He saw fit to indicate one of the means by which humanity might go forward from a beautiful but still an imperfect past to a far more beautiful, a glorious future—still will I say, God's will be done!

Are you willing, in fancy, to enter the old house with me, and mount the dark, crooked stairs to the low garret under

the steep, shingled roof? Will you rest upon the wide window seat, and gaze out through the projecting dormer, over the stretch of green field spread out before you? If you do, you may discern, about one-quarter of a mile to the northwest of you, a row of dark green, cone-like cedars. (In fancy, remember, for if in reality you search for them to-day, you will find few, if any, traces of them.) These mark the line of the Ford road. Now, do you know that you are facing the route—turn your head a little to the northeast, and you will face the exact spot—by which and at which Lower Merion was first entered by Englishmen? At the conclusion of William Penn's memorable treaty with the Indians under the elm tree at Kensington, these Indians volunteered to conduct Penn and his friends a day's journey toward the Susquehanna. The company started from the treaty tree, across the intervening country to the Schuylkill, reaching it at the present Laurel Hill steam-boat landing. A portion of this trail from the Delaware to the Schuylkill is still intact, in the road between North and South Laurel Hill, which can never be closed. From the east to the west bank of the Schuylkill, opposite Laurel Hill, there was then a ford; the march of improvement had not then backed the water over the falls, and the Schuylkill was a rapid stream. From the ford, the road continued as it still does, through the now-existing Park and to the present City avenue, crossing it but a few rods distant from the new station, Bala, on the Schuylkill Valley R. R. And this was the point, visible from the roof of my grandfather's house, at which Lower Merion was first entered by white men. The road, with only a slight change in its direction, proceeds past the place once marked by cone-like cedars, and at the village formerly called Bowman's Bridge, now Merionville, joins the old Lancaster road. The Ford road, with its continuation, the old Lancaster road, is thus the oldest highway in the state, founded upon the prehistoric Indian trail from the Delaware to the Susquehanna.

Upon John Levering's map, the line of the Ford road is marked by two parallel lines; and nearly touching these par-

allel lines is one end of that yellow patch, before alluded to as my grandfather's farm. So you see, what I know of Lower Merion was, in a large degree, learned very near the spot at which Lower Merion first became known to the Caucasian race at all. Hence, any doubt as to the propriety of my beginning my simple narration with a description of my early home, ought, I hope, be dispelled now.

Often have I wondered what these white men saw when they entered Lower Merion. No houses, of course; none of those most prominent objects in a Lower Merion landscape—post-and-rail fences; but, otherwise, I can not help believing that Lower Merion, in all its marvelous natural beauty at least, was very much the same as it is now. It is popularly believed that all of the Eastern and Middle states were once covered with dense forests, but authorities upon early American history are now telling us that this is a mistake. The troubles of the first settlers, in clearing their lands, have been much exaggerated; the Indians cleared the lands, when cleared at all, and the settlers followed and took possession. Furthermore, the flora of Lower Merion leads me to believe that our locality, in its prominent natural features, has altered very little since first known. Had Lower Merion, from the beginning of its history until a comparatively recent date, been covered entirely with dense woods, where would have been space for the growth and spread of the ancestors of our familiar field and marsh plants? Let scientists tell us, if they can. But, so far as I am aware, we have no record either of any special creation or of any new development of one flower in Lower Merion since William Penn rode along the Ford road, two hundred years ago. So, as to-day we have in abundance the golden buttercup of the fields and the gorgeous lily of the meadows, we may feel sure that Lower Merion contained, two hundred years ago, just such fields and meadows—precisely as we have long been sure, from the sweet-breathed arbutus and the wax-white pyrola of the high, rich woods within our borders, that Lower Merion embraced just such woods when only the feet of red men wandered among them. And may

we not feel still more sure that Lower Merion, since known, has changed little, by contemplating the ferns, which are a still older form of vegetation than flowers? for Lower Merion contains quite as many as any locality known in our Eastern states. These ferns have evidently required a long time for their present abundance and distribution—tall ferns for our swamps, feathery ferns for our hillsides, tiny ferns for our rocky heights. Therefore, if, after the white man entered Lower Merion, he wandered about exploring and admiring its loveliness, I think I can tell you what he saw. He, the early white man in general, saw, minus houses, barns and fences, what John Levering saw, when, about twenty years ago, he trundled a wheel-barrow before him, surveying the township for one of the most accurate maps ever made, the map containing the memorable yellow patch, near the white margin marked "Philadelphia county." He saw what we may all see. He saw some of the most romantic, picturesque, even grand scenery to be found in any known country. Particularly was this the case if he wandered near the Schuylkill, which was then a rapid river. Had we no other evidence, the still remaining eddies below Flat Rock dam would prove to us how impetuous its course was of old.

The hills of the west bank mimicked mountains in their abrupt rise, in their disordered masses of mighty rocks, flung by nature's hand in wild confusion. The deep ravines, cleaving these hills, suggested cruel scars, long healed, and now made health-giving in their clear streams, singing gayly as they leaped to the river in myriads of fairy cascades. One of these ravines, later called Mill Creek ravine, and now known as Rose Glen, rivalled the larger Schuylkill in its embracing, majestic hills, its towering, dense, blue-shadowed woods, and its sparkling, laughing waters. The narrower ravine, with its smaller stream, at Soapstone quarry, was perhaps even more impressive in the majesty of its perpendicular heights. But, as the hills of the Schuylkill approached what we know as Conshohocken, they scorned to mimic mountains; they became mountains in reality, failing only to reach the clouds. But

mountains they became, in that they joined the spur from the Valley hills, proving their relationship to the Appalachians as the Indians called them, the "never-ending chain." These grand hills of Conshohocken not only establish their relationship to the Appalachians, they proudly point to their relatives' image in the air; for, if to-day, from the summit of the noblest of these can be discerned the distant spires of the Quaker city, if from it the townships of Springfield, Whitmarsh, Plymouth, Norriton, Lower and Upper Merion are spread out at the feet of the beholder like a map, no less can be descried the far-off, sapphire peaks of the "never-ending" Blue ridge. The early white man had crossed the ocean to behold this sublime spectacle, but, alas! many residents of Lower Merion in our time think it scarcely worth while to imitate so good an example; the sublime spectacle is too near home.

Probably the early white man explored these ravines, tracing the creeks to their sources upon the "Bryn Mawr" or "high hill" region, if one region of hills can be called higher than another where *all* are high hills. He found these creeks Schuylkills in miniature, rapid rivulets, enclosed by wood, clothed heights, every turn in their course displaying a new picture of charming beauty. The high hill region he found to consist of majestic sweeps of flower-dotted fields broken into velvety billows, each sweep and billow framed in by the same noble forests of beeches and chestnuts, oaks and tulip poplars, with undergrowth of blossoming shrubs, laurels and azaleas, vacciniums and dog woods, as characterized the borders of the Schuylkill. But when he passed the high hill region, he discovered that he had crossed the water-shed, dividing the tributaries of the Schuylkill from those of the Delaware. The branches of Cobb, Indian, and smaller creeks, with their wildly romantic fringes of anemone-starred woods, violet varied meadows, moss-grown rocks, and tinkling falls, were as beautiful after their own kind as the gorge-sheltered affluents of the Schuylkill. Thus was Lower Merion, from river to rivulet, from mountain to knoll, from glade to mead, from tree to



flower, the very perfection of loveliness, a true Paradise of earthly beauty. And so it is to-day.

And, if we wandered in fancy, like swift-winged birds, over the whole township, will you also, in fancy, again sit with me upon the broad window-seat of the dormer, in the same low garret, under the sloping, shingled roof? If so, I pray you, glance out with me again. It is only a green field upon the left of us which I want to show you, a very little higher than the one in front of us, a part of the yellow patch upon the map. But that green field, a portion of the property of the late Dr. Jonathan Clark, was determined by the United States Coast Survey to be the highest point of land within twenty miles of Philadelphia. If you stood out in that field, you could command an extensive view. You could see Mount Holly in New Jersey, and Roxborough and Point Breeze in Pennsylvania. And that reminds me; as Edward Harvey was the first to introduce the *ailanthus* into Lower Merion, so also was Jonathan Clark the first to introduce the mulberry, he being among the earliest in the neighborhood of Philadelphia to attempt silk culture.

We don't often see a little old-fashioned, horse-hair-covered trunk in these days, but here is one in this old garret. This served all the fair daughters of the family in years past, during their sojourn at the famous Friends' Boarding School at West Town. Well do I remember how often I gazed at that trunk in the garret, and wondered why it was that I could never take it to West Town. But I was only a degenerate scion of the old stock, for my father had married "out of meeting." Edward Harvey had taken Margaret Boyle by the hand, in the quaint little edifice near the General Wayne tavern, years before, consequently their sons and daughters were welcome at West Town; but no Quaker record bore the names of Margaret Boyle's grandchildren. Still, if Margaret *did* marry "in meeting," she must have been rather gay for a Quaker maiden. Her miniature, as a young girl, shows her in a short-waisted, puffed muslin dress of quite a worldly pattern; her hair is arranged in veritable *bangs*, surmounted by a

muslin turban, fastened above the forehead with a cameo brooch. Beautiful she must have been; her dark hair and eyes, and pink-and-white complexion abundantly prove this.

And now, do you ask, am I describing my ancestress simply because she was noted for her beauty? Oh, no! But because it may be a matter of historic interest to the people of Lower Merion to know that such was the appearance of a descendant of the great Earl of Cork, who lived and died in Lower Merion. True, her father was a scapegrace younger son, who ran away from home and taught school in Chester county; who, when the Revolutionary war broke out, took the part of the Colonies and enlisted as a captain in Wayne's brigade, thus cutting himself off from his family forever; but his daughter was proud of the name which she bore. Margaret was also considered an accomplished woman, for, when she went to Europe upon her wedding tour, she kept a journal, describing her travels, which, in those days, was a rare thing for a lady to do. But her beauty and accomplishments are alike forgotten. Her remains, with those of her husband and many of her kindred, are interred in the little grave-yard adjoining the antique Lower Merion Meeting-house.

It is generally known that this quaint, cruciform structure, with steep roof, cream-colored stone walls, and diamond-paned windows, was erected in 1695; that here assembled many of the very first settlers of the locality, the Welsh Friends; that here are buried the bodies of remote ancestors of quite a number of Lower Merion families, the location of whose graves can not now be discovered; that, in 1828, this meeting-house became the property of the Hicksite branch of Friends, the Orthodox erecting a new place of worship, just over the line in Philadelphia county; while, strange to relate, both branches used and still use the grave-yard in common. But does any one notice that this is the oldest known structure in Lower Merion upon the line of the ancient Indian trail? It was established here to meet the wants of the Welsh settlers in Merion, who still used the trail as their principal route to and from the primitive city. In time, a meeting-house was built

in Darby, and another in Haverford. Two new roads were therefore laid out; one from the meeting-house in Merion to that in Darby, and one, also from the meeting-house in Merion, to that in Haverford. These two roads substantially survive, the former being the old Darby road, leading along the Pennsylvania railroad, past Merion and Overbrook stations, toward Haddington; the latter, the Church road, leading past Elm and Wynnewood stations beyond the lower corner of Ardmore.

From Bowman's Bridge, or Merionville, on past the Merion Meeting-house, the Lancaster road, a continuation of the Ford road, is, as we have seen, the oldest road in the state. From Merionville to the city line, that portion of the Lancaster road, or as it is sometimes called, Blockley and Merion turnpike, is comparatively modern, dating, however, beyond Revolutionary times. The Lancaster turnpike, passing through Lower Merion from the neighborhood of Overbrook to Rosemont stations, Pennsylvania railroad, is also an ancient highway.

But there is one road of Lower Merion concerning which much of interest may be related, and which can best be fairly described by beginning as the road itself does, in the neighborhood of Merion Meeting-house. This is the route popularly known as the old Gulf road, and, facetiously, as Billy Penn's road. It turns off from the ancient Indian trail but a few rods westward from the Merion Meeting-house.

Between the latter and the former is one space of territory little changed by the march of modern improvement, for here stands intact a beautiful example of the antique gray stone, Pennsylvania farm house, the residence of Edward Price. Before the entrance is quite a remarkable relic, in the shape of a stone horse-block with three steps, an object once very common in country neighborhoods, but now as little seen as the spinning-wheel. Diagonally opposite this old mansion, embowered in a lovely grove of maples, and outlined against a grand forest, formerly stood another antique mansion, the stones of whose massive chimneys weighed many tons. Literally, the mansion still stands, but it is so disguised by recent

alterations that its own builder would never recognize it. But it would scarce be possible to tell the history of Billy Penn's road without referring to this old house.

It is said that William Penn himself personally superintended the laying out of this road from Merion Meeting-house to Paoli, riding on horseback throughout its entire length. He commanded that every mile should be marked by a granite post, upon which was carved the Penn coat-of-arms, consisting of three balls, humorously termed the "three apple-dumplings." How can I better continue the history of Lower Merion than by sketching the history of this road? For, if the history of one farm is the history of Lower Merion in miniature, so, also, is the history of one public pathway that of Lower Merion and the world.

The antique, disguised, modernized mansion near the entrance to Billy Penn's road, gave shelter to Lord Cornwallis for a short time preceding the massacre of Paoli. He was waiting here for a Tory, who had volunteered to conduct him along this same Gulf road to the Gulf mill, just over the line in Upper Merion, where the Americans had concealed their stores of ammunition. Cornwallis's subsequent career is better known. With only a field or two between the entrance to the road and the settlement stands the tiny, little, changing village of Libertyville, believed to be almost identical with the oldest settlement in the state, claiming to have been founded nearly a year in advance of either Chester or Philadelphia.

From the pre-historic Indian trail the Gulf road winds down among hills and woods toward the rich and charming valley of Mill creek. It passes a long-neglected farm, with once pretentious mansion and a then-considered elegant lodge-gate. This farm, until recent years, was the last remnant of land in southeastern Pennsylvania held by the Penn family, in that branch of the proprietor's descendants known as Penn-Gaskell. And now the road approaches Mill creek, crossing it by an antique stone bridge, having shingled walls for parapets, as was the old style in Pennsylvania. Upon the right

hand side still stands a very primitive saw-mill. Upon the left is a deep hollow, said to have been the cellar of a pre-Revolutionary grist-mill, which gained, during the troublous days of the struggle for independence, a very bad reputation. This, however, is a mistake, as will be seen further on.

Do not be deceived by the fork in the road. The ancient highway, surveyed by Friend William himself, turned up the creek. The way *down* the stream is comparatively modern, although we would find much of interest if we traveled that road, mainly a series of picturesque mills nestled among grand hills, clear down to the Schuylkill. What would probably interest us most would be the very dingy manufactory, in which, in its better days, Deringer first made his famous pistols. But we cannot pause now. With a pretty farmhouse upon our right and an equally pretty meadow upon our left, we will turn *up* the creek, as our Quaker forerunner did. The semi-mountainous woodland scenery is similarly lovely upon both sides of our way. We soon approach a cluster of old mills, and equally old, if not older, houses. One of these latter is another of the now rare, but formerly abundant, gray-stone country mansions. Before I tell you its history, look down in the hollow at the patched-up, but still habitable, log-house. This is nearly two hundred years of age, and was, it is said, built and occupied by a civilized, converted Indian.

Do you remember my saying that Lord Cornwallis waited for a Tory to conduct him to the Gulf, or Gulph, as it was then written? This Tory lived in this same old stone mansion, standing very much as he left it. Now, Tories were not always the wicked monsters that we younger Americans imagine them. In Pennsylvania, at least, they were mostly good, honest Quakers, who deprecated war, prayed for peace, and were conscientiously loyal to their king. This Tory was said to be such; a member of Merion meeting. His remains are probably buried in the Friends' grave-yards there. The name of John Roberts has been, it may be, unjustly covered with infamy. Certain it is that he was tried and convicted of

treason, for aiding and abetting Cornwallis, and hanged in Philadelphia, and not, as popularly believed, in his own apple-orchard, still haunted by his ghost. Another popular belief regarding him has some foundation in fact, so it is said. The same John Roberts ground glass with flour in his own grist-mill to feed American soldiers. In this he was aided by a miller named Fishburn, whose modernized stone cottage stands upon the newer Gulf road, near the present town of Bryn Mawr. The mill, whose cellar may be seen hard by the weather-beaten saw-mill, is said by some to be the one in which the dark deed was accomplished. But better authority states that the still-standing structure, nearly opposite Roberts' house, and now used as a stable, is the one. The white flour, hiding murderous particles sharper than steel, was providentially prevented from doing harm, though for the intent to kill, as well as the adherence to Cornwallis, John Roberts paid the penalty. His residence later became the property of Blair McClenahan, the Irish patriot, whose services to the country, during the war of 1812, ought never be forgotten by any grateful American.

The road proceeds by several more old mills, and then passes through the creek by a ford, which, fortunately for the lover of the picturesque, has never been superseded by a bridge. As we are pedestrians, we will cross upon the board foot-walk, steadying ourselves by the log hand-rail. And now only a strip of wood-land, but dense as the primitive wilderness, separates us from the dam, beside which is the tottering wall of the Dove mill, where was, at one time, manufactured all government and bank-note paper, distinguished by its water-mark—of a dove with an olive branch. Now the road emerges from its bordering woods, and passes into a stretch of green fields. But, down the slope to the right, do you not see a wonderful collection of dark rocks, of strange, fantastic forms, overhung by clumps of cedars, daintily festooned by grave-vines? This remarkable bit of country, near the upper course of Mill creek, covers several acres. It is called the Black Rocks; it is a paradise for botanists and artists and a

problem to geologists, but to the historian a spot of rare interest, in that it was the last Indian reservation in Montgomery county.

The road now makes an abrupt turn, and, leaving the fields, approaches another region of dense woodland. Standing back from the roadway, with only the creek and a meadow between, is another old-time stone mansion. This, in pre-Revolutionary days, was the residence of one Harrison, the proprietor of a slave plantation; for, little as we may care to acknowledge it, human slavery once existed in Pennsylvania, and in Lower Merion. Harrison's ambition was to hold "a hundred niggers," but he was never permitted to realize this, as the hundredth always died, leaving him but ninety-nine. The souls of "Harrison's niggers" are said to haunt the whole Harrison, or as it is generally written, Harriton, domain. But the same house has other claims to distinction. Later, it was occupied by Harrison's son-in-law, Charles Thomson, Secretary of Colonial Congress. This much, relating to Thomson, is well known; it is not so generally known that he was the first American translator of the Bible;\* that the translation was made in this antique Lower Merion mansion; that Thomson's version, now strangely forgotten, is one of the most accurate in existence; and that he accomplished the task entirely unaided.

From the same point of view, crowning a not-distant eminence, a height forming part of the semi-mountainous elevations near Conshohocken, may be discerned yet another of these antique stone mansions, a remarkably fine one, which its present occupant, Wayne MacVeagh, has had the good taste to improve without destroying its old-time character. This was once the residence of the celebrated Judge Richard B. Jones, the last survivor of the officers and crew of the frigate *Philadelphia*, taken prisoner by the Algerines. Later it was occupied by the Rev. Dudley Tyng, one of a family of advanced thinkers; Dr. Anita V. Tyng, of the same race, is to-day one of the most famous of women physicians. The present

owner of Brookfield, as the place is still called, is no less distinguished than his predecessors.

Did we neglect to notice that one of William Penn's mile-stones, with three balls, still stands, here along the edge of the woods? Shall we enter the dense forest upon our left? If we do, we shall find the low-walled, Harriton family cemetery, filled with graves overgrown by wild flowers, and marked by gray or brown stone tablets, with a few marble ones discolored by age. Here were interred the remains of Charles Thomson; from this little, secluded burying-ground his body was feloniously stolen by his non-Quaker relatives, and carried to Laurel Hill. Here lie the bones of many of Thomson's connections, of the Morris family, living members of which now possess nearly all of the land in the immediate vicinity. These same Morrisises, with all of those prominently known in Lower Merion and Philadelphia, belong to the identical race which gave to the world, as well as to our country, the illustrious Robert and Gouveneur Morris.

But a few steps further on, and we come to another graveyard, but one more modern in aspect, with smooth, white marble tablets, and tall, somewhat pretentious monuments. We would call it only an ordinary country grave yard, were it not for the fact that upon one side of it stands a very primitive-looking edifice, Quaker-like in its extreme simplicity. We are not surprised to learn that, in age, this building is nearing the close of its century; that it is a relic of the days when the Baptists were a despised sect, content to seek the wilderness, and call their unpretending places of worship "meeting-houses," just as their neighbors, the Friends, did. The modern graveyard has grown about the still cherished "Lower Merion Baptist Meeting-House." But it is no longer in the wilderness, although the woods about it are nearly intact; it fronts upon the newer continuation of the Gulf road, which, within the last decade or so, has become the northern boundary of the now fashionable town of Bryn Mawr. This newer continuation, itself long since become venerable in age, extends from the old Lancaster road, or Indian trail, near the present Haverford



College station, to the corner of this Baptist grave-yard. Besides the meeting-house, the only other antique building which it passes is the stone cottage of Fishburn, the miller, already spoken of; this is opposite the stables connected with Bryn Mawr hotel. From the grave-yard the old and new Gulf roads are continuous, and they make a sudden turn, at least the old road does, toward the right, crossing Mill creek, which it has followed for about two miles. As it bends, it touches the corner of the extensive property once owned by the Humphreys family, and lately purchased by Dr. Joseph W. Taylor, upon which to erect suitable buildings for a college for women. Dr. Taylor did not live to see these buildings completed, but we, to-day, may behold, towering in solid magnificence, the granite walls of Taylor and Merion halls, whose doors shall soon stand open, inviting all ambitious, studious young women, throughout the world, to come to Lower Merion and receive the same advanced education offered to their brothers elsewhere. Can you travel, as you have just done, in fancy, along the old Gulf road, and deny that the sight of these halls, at the close of your journey, appears as a grand climax? For what have the objects, which I have pointed out upon our way, said to you? nothing to confirm my declaration that the history of the Gulf road, of Lower Merion, and of the world, were one?

To *me*, these objects spoke of Welsh Friends leaving their homes for conscience's sake, and bringing with them, to the very hills and valleys which I had explored, the beautiful, musical name of Merion, as a sweet reminder of other hills and valleys beyond the sea, the story of an exodus thus being, not for the first time in history, told in one word. Flight from home, for conscience's sake, belongs as much to Lower Merion as to Palestine, to Thomas Wynne as to Moses. These objects spoke of new homes founded in the wilderness with faith in God, of treachery and tyranny defeated in the efforts to preserve these homes to posterity, of the American apostle of peace, and the misfortunes of himself and family in later years, but whose fame shall endure forever, in spite of misfor-

tune; of the primitive industries of an infant nation now far surpassed in this marvelous age of invention, of savages brought within the gentle influences of Christianity, of the Holy Scriptures diffused among mankind, of the successful efforts of our noble predecessors to exalt us to a high place among nations, of religious persecution overcome by the true spirit of the gospel, of human slavery overthrown, of liberal thought popularized in our midst. Now, can you say that the history of the old Gulf road is not also that of our country and the world? Is not the peaceful William Penn highway like a grand route along which all humanity might proceed in a triumphal march toward its goal of universal peace? Here stands Bryn Mawr College for women; wonderful, is it not? How can you resist the conclusion that in Lower Merion, as everywhere else, humanity must reach its final perfection, that beatific state so long foretold by prophets and poets, that state which we must have faith to believe it will reach after battle and toil and trial—through the elevation of its women? Reverently do I say it, God Himself has walked with you in your journey along this road.

Do you care to proceed along the continuation of the older with the newer Gulf road? You will see a pretty, diversified farming country. But suppose we find our way among the modern branching avenues, and examine this town of Bryn Mawr. Very beautiful, is it not? seated upon hills, as its Welsh name implies, from any one of which may be commanded a wonderful view of Lower Merion spread out like a literal promised land flowing with milk and honey? The distant, hill-enthroned village to the north is Merion Square, once called, in derision, the War Office. Bryn Mawr has no set limits; the careless observer, not trained to discriminate between the new and the old, would say that the town extended, like a red-and-yellow scarf, along the Pennsylvania railroad, from Rosemont to Overbrook. To our plain, Quaker taste, these red-and-yellow villas, forming the scarf, appear far too numerous, but the people evidently are trying to solve all hygienic and moral problems. If this is the ideal country

village, the home beautiful of the future will be in just such a country village; city crowds, city noises, city smoke, city filth, and city poverty being things of the past; and then it will be said of Lower Merion that she was far in advance of her age in relegating all such things to the forgotten barbarities.

At Rosemont still stands a semi-modern cottage, in which Longfellow lived during Centennial summer, and in which he wrote his poem upon old Radnor church, which, although founded by the same Welsh settlers, is too far over the Delaware county line for Lower Merion to claim. For the same reason we can not embrace Villa Nova College, though it barely escapes us; nor Haverford College, although we do boldly grasp its beautiful granite gates, the posts of which are memorial stones, celebrating a semi-centennial. Lower Merion, then, encourages her sons to enter the halls of learning founded by her own founders, the Quakers; if she does not precisely bid them enter, at Villa Nova, the domain of the Catholic church, she more than makes up for her neglect both at Merion and at Overbrook; for, between these stations upon the Pennsylvania railroad stands a splendid pile of architecture known as the theological seminary of St. Charles Borromeo. Lower Merion can not afford to deny her Catholic citizens. One of these is everywhere quoted for Lower Merion, as Stephen Girard is for Philadelphia. Dennis Kelley, an illiterate Irishman, came to the township with a pack upon his back, and began his career by weaving carpet in the loft of a spring house near Ardmore, pushing his finished wares to Philadelphia in a wheel-barrow, for sale. He died a millionaire. He it was who developed the water power of Cobb creek, thus reaping the gratitude of Delaware county, as well as Montgomery; he it was who made property valuable in the southeastern corner of Lower Merion, near the Delaware and Philadelphia county lines. And Dennis Kelley is not the only poor man who won wealth in Lower Merion.

If we desired to pass, in reality, as we have done so rapidly in fancy, from Rosemont to Overbrook, and vicinity, it would probably be by way of the Pennsylvania railroad,

or the Lancaster turnpike road, already alluded to. From all of the old roads branch off many by-roads, nearly as ancient, but the exact date of whose laying out is not popularly known. The Schuylkill early had a highway along its banks, and from this road others soon deflected into the interior of the township, following the streams up through the ravines. Among the newest roads are the avenues opened to reach certain stations upon the Pennsylvania railroad, giving rise to the singular fact that while that portion of Lower Merion near the Schuylkill has changed very little within the memory of the present generation, that near the Delaware county line has become so altered within the last ten years that an old resident would scarcely recognize it, except by its prominent natural features. Hence, the red-and-yellow scarf, from Rosemont to Overbrook. But it is a mistake to suppose that this linear, fashionable, suburban town is just what it appears in every sense—the mushroom creation of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company. Bryn Mawr, it is true, had this august corporation for its sponsor in baptism, but the site chosen for the proposed ideal village had crowding upon it Humphreystown and Possumtown. The hamlet at Haverford is an outgrowth from the Quaker college, founded fifty years ago. Libertyville, or rather Wynnewood, is probably the oldest settlement in Pennsylvania. Ardmore, formerly Athensville, is very little younger. Merion was a name and a station, known and recognized before Elm or Bryn Mawr. So it will be seen that, although the Pennsylvania railroad, with wealth and fashion, dominates, this part of Lower Merion still preserves its traditions; the railroad found as much as it created. The new has not yet quite driven out the old. The grand homestead of the Humphreys family still stands, in all its antique splendor, in the very midst of Bryn Mawr's palaces. Side by side with one of the prettiest stone cottages in Ardmore, may be seen a picturesque old barn, beautifully embowered in graceful Virginia creeper and scarlet-blossomed trumpet vine.

Suppose we return from our wanderings to the Merion Meeting-House. A by-road passes the grave-yard, and also

the modern, wicked race-track, Belmont park. The same road, by winding ways, leads down toward the Schuylkill, running near the Merion Academy, quite a venerable seat of learning, though long degenerated from its first estate to an ordinary public school. The General Wayne tavern, once occupied by General Wayne himself, and preserving much of its ancient character, stands, as we have seen, the nearest neighbor of the meeting-house, opposite the entrance to Church road, leading to Haverford meeting. And just beyond that road is a fine old mansion, the property of the Thomas family. Have you forgotten how long we sat in the garret-window of my old home? While there, did you notice among the relics piled high upon the floor, a human thigh bone? That bone once belonged to a British soldier, who met his death upon this same Thomas property.

The house, during the Revolution, was occupied by a rough, coarse family, named Wilson. They, however, professed to be patriots, and showed their devotion in the most uproarious manner. While Washington was encamped in the neighborhood, two British soldiers were taken prisoners, and two of the Wilson boys were set as guards, immediately in front of their own home. Thus engaged, the mother of the Wilsons, a powerful virago, rushed out, and with an oath demanded of her sons why they did not kill their prisoners. They said that they were obeying orders. Thereupon the woman seized the bayonets from her sons' hands, and pierced both of the British soldiers through their hearts. The whole family were obliged to flee, to escape Washington's indignation. The soldiers were buried out in the middle of the road. Time passed; people began to think this an improbable story, until, when the Pennsylvania railroad opened its first route, and dug into the road-bed to lay its tracks, the bones of the soldiers were unearthed, and neighbors for miles around gathered them up for relics. The human thigh bone which you saw was one of these.

Just here, along the side of this widened and piked Indian trail, do you see that row of square blocks of stone, set in reg-

ular order, about a yard apart? These are the remains of the first road-bed made by the Pennsylvania railroad, in the days when stone blocks, instead of wooden logs, were used to support the tracks. If you trace the road-bed by these blocks, you will find it very different in direction from the present route. Going westward, we see that it follows the Indian trail past the General Wayne, past the Merion Meeting-House, past the entrance to William Penn's road, and through Libertyville. This little village has long remained in its present state; ever since the railroad was moved half a mile south to the present Elm station, every inclination to growth has been checked. Perhaps this may help account for the fact that Lower Merion, salubrious and populous as it has always been since known, was long characterized by a singular absence of villages—the difficulty of ingress and egress. The few settlements were so small as to scarce deserve the name. Merionville, Libertyville, Athensville, Academyville, West Manayunk, Merion Square and Humphreystown, were all that were worth mentioning; and only Athensville and Humphreystown have, to any extent, grown. We know them as Ardmore and Bryn Mawr. Looking back, they see what we all see now, that, largely because their prayer that the railroad might keep away from them was not answered, they, to-day, are not Libertyvilles. But why is Libertyville so called? Because, in the midst of indifferent neighbors, this little village at one time in its history raised a liberty pole. And why, until recently, was its cross-country rival, Merion Square, termed, in derision, the War Office? Because rough characters were permitted to live among peaceable citizens, constantly embroiling them in petty squabbles.

The old railroad bed continues to follow the Indian trail, passing by a charmingly quaint stone cottage, nearly two hundred years old, in which William Penn at times resided, and kept some of his most valuable documents—at least, so it is said; hence the designation, Penn cottage. The name is scattered about profusely, it seems. A certain massive boulder, upon the Haverford road near Overbrook, is called the Penn

rock, from the alleged circumstance that here friend William once gathered a congregation of Indians, and stood upon the rock while he preached to them. This rock, however, is several miles distant from the old railroad bed, which joins the present one at Ardmore, a few yards east of the station. But a few yards *west* of the station, later improvements have again changed the direction of the railroad bed, so that at Ardmore is the only portion of the old bed still remaining part of the main line of the Pennsylvania railroad in Lower Merion. And, as we may see from the case of Libertyville, the fact of this little piece of railroad remaining unchanged has made and kept Ardmore what it is to-day—the most beautiful of villages, the most delightful of homes to be found anywhere within a radius of ten miles of Philadelphia.

Trace the road bed east from the General Wayne tavern. For half a mile it follows the old Lancaster road, here continuous with the Indian trail, reaching the Ford road at Merionville. The old railroad here deflects, and follows the Ford road, the continuation of the Indian trail, past the row of cone-like cedars, once visible from the garret window of my ancestral home. From this point to City avenue is a distance of but a few yards, and the old railroad passed into Philadelphia and continued upon its way through the park to the Columbia bridge. But, before reaching City avenue, the road bed led through a deep cut in a rocky hill, and this same deep cut, long abandoned by the Pennsylvania railroad, is now utilized by it for the route of the Schuylkill Valley branch.

And now we have approached within only a few feet of the spot at which the early white man first entered Lower Merion. This spot is now the property of the Roberts family. The Roberts domain extends, just as it did nearly two hundred years ago, from the Ford road to the Schuylkill. Its old name, Pencoyd, or Penquoid, has been applied to the iron works, with the newly-grown village, upon the river's edge, presenting such a picturesque aspect to the beholder upon the opposite bank, the tall chimneys breathing out fire and smoke against the dark green hills. Here were, for years, shad fish

eries, the property of the Jones family. President George B. Roberts, of the Pennsylvania railroad, belongs to this same old Welsh race of Roberts. He it was who created the Schuylkill branch, and established Bala station upon the edge of his ancestral lands. Welsh names throughout Lower Merion either survive, or have been revived, with praise-worthy taste. President Roberts applied to this station a name which would correspond with those of other Welsh names in the neighborhood—Bala, from Bala, in Merionethshire, Wales, from which the first American Roberts brought his bride. This name will, ere long, become doubly appropriate, for Merionville's, or more properly, Merioneth's, growing down along the Ford road to the station is only a question of time.

And now, have I come back to my starting point? Almost. The extensive domain upon the other side of Bala station has been in the Stadelman family nearly as long as the Roberts territory in theirs. This fact reminds me of many things. One is, that though I, myself, represent a race driven out of Lower Merion by modern invaders, I also represent invaders; my ancestors, early though they were, were not the first to claim the soil. English and Irish Friends followed Welsh Quakers and Episcopalians and German Lutherans; and such names as Jones, Roberts, Price (a modification of *ap Rees*), Bevan (an alteration of *ap Evan*), Humphreys (*hun Fries*, meaning, literally, *from Friesland*), Wynne, Super and Stadelman, have the chief claim to distinction. Almost contemporary with the Welsh were German emigrants from the Palatinate, fleeing also, like the Welsh, from persecution. By the year 1769, these Germans had so increased in numbers that they founded an Evangelical Lutheran church in Merion; and one of the first members of this church was a Stadelman, whose descendants still possess their ancestral home. But many of these German Lutherans lived just as far from their place of worship as the first Stadelman did.

"The little Dutch church" was a primitive edifice, almost literally in the wilderness, standing, as it did, on the old road from Merion Meeting to Haverford, called Church road from



the German place of worship, and not from either meeting-house. The same antique structure remained, in the midst of its beautiful cemetery, half a mile beyond Ardmore toward the Delaware county line, until about six years ago, when it was pulled down, to be superseded by a more modern but less attractive church in the village proper. This, to the eyes of outsiders, seems the most foolish thing that the congregation ever did; but they have a history, of the heroic devotion of their forefathers, of which any congregation might well be proud. Thus early, it will be seen, were altars of religion consecrated in Lower Merion, in more ways and in other names than one. I can not here give an account of any particular denomination or its growth, but will only remark that the first Episcopal church, the Redeemer, near Bryn Mawr, was an offshoot of old St. David's, at Radnor; and that Methodism, while successful everywhere else in the world, never flourished in Lower Merion.

History repeats itself, this we know. With a community composed of earlier and later comers, it was inevitable that there should be social rivalries, more or less fierce, just as we see to-day. We, who lived in the gray stone mansions, imagine that the residents of the red-and-yellow palaces are our upstart enemies, but there was a time when the occupants of plain log houses thought just the same of our fathers. For there *were* log houses in Lower Merion, and some of them still exist, scattered here and there. One, built about 1700, stood upon my grandfather's farm until 1876, and long served as a tenant house, but it was so disguised with boards and plaster that I never knew what the frame-work was until I saw it pulled down. There also stood an old wooden barn of about the same age, in which once hid two British soldiers, deserters, who wished to join the American army; they were discovered and aided by the Irishman who lived in the log house. So again, you see, the history of one farm is the history of Lower Merion, and the whole country. But, to return to social rivalries. I have heard, indirectly, through a very old lady connected with the Stadelman family, that there was a time when

all marketing from Lower Merion was carried to the city by women upon horseback, their butter and eggs and vegetables packed in saddle-bags. Two-wheeled carts, with muslin covers drawn with strings like a sun bonnet, created a small revolution; those who had the two wheeled carts looked down upon those poor creatures who were still obliged to put up with saddle-bags. The old lady from whom I derived my information was among the favored ones whom fortune permitted to drive a two-wheeled cart. How long ago that was may be guessed when I tell you that, upon one occasion as she drove into Philadelphia, down the Lancaster road to the Lancaster turnpike, thence on by the West Chester road to town, crossing the river at the place now occupied by Market street bridge, she discovered that the highwaymen had robbed the mail coach, and, near what we know as Sixteenth and Market streets, tied the passengers to the trees. Before going further, I would like to remark that it was a relative of this old lady, who, when a soldier at Valley Forge, obtained a furlough, came home, and occupied his time in making shoes for his comrades. His name was Jacob Latch, and he belonged to the same Latch family still occupying the land in Lower Merion, between the old Stadelman and Harvey properties.

But what extravagance when two-wheeled carts gave way to four-wheeled wagons. Then it was that my grandfather, in advance of many of his neighbors, was sniffed at as a haughty aristocrat because he drove to the city in a carriage with four wheels, drawn by two iron-gray horses. Such a turnout would look very ordinary beside the drags and tandems now seen dashing along our Lower Merion roads. Can we, to-day, realize that, upon both Lancaster pikes, the big, white-covered Conestoga wagon was a sight once very familiar? Pittsburg then was considered the extreme west, and everything in the shape of manufactured goods was "teamed" across the Alleghenies. I am not now stating to my intelligent readers a new fact, but I may be saying something new to many, in asserting that we have evidence in Lower Merion that this was the case, in the existence of so many old taverns, at regular intervals,

all along both main roads, just as if a delegation of westward-bound, hungry travellers, was expected at every stage, at a particular hour. The first antique hotel, on the old Lancaster road, in Lower Merion, is the Black Horse, still in a good state of preservation, although no longer used as an inn; this is just over the city line, and is about half-way between Bala station on the Schuylkill Valley railroad and Overbrook station on the main line of the Pennsylvania railroad. The next is the General Wayne, before referred to, about a mile and a half further on; here for years was the only post-office for miles around. The third, of any prominence, was the Old Buck, now used as a summer boarding house; this was once the only post-office for the upper end of Lower Merion, as the General Wayne was for the lower; this large, imposing building, with pretty, shaded grounds, is at the junction of the old Lancaster road, that is, the Indian trail, with the Lancaster turnpike. Beyond this there is no antique tavern within the limits of Montgomery county. Near by the Old Buck is a weather-beaten structure, erected many years ago, during the wave of popular excitement which spread over the country, through the efforts of the Washingtonians; it is still called Temperance Hall, though now used as a printing office by the *Bryn Mawr News*. A few rods to the eastward stood for a long time the picturesque, ivy-veiled, evergreen-embowered Church of the Redeemer, recently demolished. But around these, strange to say, has grown up a queer little Irish settlement, variously called Cork, Kilkenny and Irishtown. Still, it seems that even the poor are well off in Lower Merion; any one of these houses, if removed to another location, would, separately, be a neat, desirable residence.

If we retrace our steps and go back toward Philadelphia, along the Lancaster turnpike, we still find the same succession of old taverns, the Red Lion, near the upper end of the present Ardmore, being the only one still used as a hotel. This is the great resort of bicycle clubs, quite different quests from the old-time sojourners, from wagons and stages.

What a long, weary journey it must have been to Pitts-

burg in a wagon. You might suppose teamsters and travelers would welcome a change. But, no! such is the proverbial short-sightedness of human nature. When a railroad through Lower Merion was first talked of, these teamsters and travelers were the first to oppose the innovation. Why? Because, they said, it will make horses good for nothing. And when, at last, the railroad was built, the people were afraid to use it, and for years thereafter continued to travel with horses and wagons.

Have I told all that I know of Lower Merion? Nearly; except that, now that the new Schuylkill Valley railroad has cut through its northwestern corner, the people of the outside world will learn, more and more, what a beautiful resting place for our dead we have within our borders—West Laurel Hill. Not that I admire pretentious cemeteries—the little grave-yard adjoining the Lower Merion Meeting-House suits my simple Quaker taste very much better—but I like West Laurel Hill because of its natural loveliness, its wonderfully beautiful prospects of rock and wood, vale and river. Had I been a member of the Anderson family, with such a fair ancestral domain as Maple Hill, scarce could I have consented to its change of name and nature. But, if it is fitting that the remains of the distinguished dead be laid among us, let me say that we have a necropolis sufficiently magnificent for the sepulchres of kings.

This is all that I know of Lower Merion. My knowledge is chiefly of its past. Of its present, let those tell more who know more, those who have entered into it as conquerors and who now possess the land. Of its future, I can safely say that, like its past, this will be beautifully, heroically grand; the past is marked by humanity's constant endeavor, the future will be marked by humanity's triumphant success. Our Lower Merion will be, as it is, as it has been, the world in miniature; our people, of the past, the present, the future, typify *all* people—humanity toiling, humanity expectant, humanity crowned.

## HISTORY OF THE FIRST TROOP OF CAVALRY OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY, PA.

By Hon. Hiram C. Hoover.

The precise date when this volunteer company was organized cannot now be definitely determined, as there are no books or papers now in existence (as far as the writer knows) which would fix its organization. Sharf & Wescott's Philadelphia History, volume I, page 448, mentions that the Montgomery Troop of Light Horse, commanded by Captain James Morris, paraded in the grand Federal procession in Philadelphia, on July 4, 1788. Some have thought this was the organization afterwards known as the First Troop of Montgomery county; but from tradition and from information received from old inhabitants now living, we conclude that the troop was organized about the year 1798, under the following circumstances.

There was a troop of horse in existence in the county prior to this date, under the command of Captain Henderson. This troop was ordered out to assist in suppressing what was known as the whiskey insurrection in western Pennsylvania. Some time after their return, between the years 1795 and 1798, Robert Kennedy was elected captain (he was proprietor of the Hickorytown hotel). (See History of Montgomery County, page 1032). At the time that the Fries rebellion occurred, this troop was ordered out again to assist in suppressing the outbreak, and they responded to the order.

The troop was composed of members holding different political views, some holding the Federal or John Adams' ideas, others belonging to the opposite party, known as the Jeffersonian or Democratic party. As political feeling waxed very warm at this period, the adherents of Jefferson erected throughout the county what were known as liberty poles,

which were very obnoxious to the Federalists. Consequently, upon the return of this troop, when it reached the Trappe (where they stopped to refresh themselves), there was one of these poles standing, and some of the members belonging to the Federal party attempted to cut it down. Whether they succeeded or not is not known to the writer, but it resulted in a complete division of the membership, the Federalists refusing to remain members, as Captain Kennedy was a Democrat. But the ranks were soon filled by new members holding the same political views as the captain, and they then adopted the name of the Democratic Republican Troop of Montgomery County. Captain Kennedy continued in command of the troop until the year 1804, when Isaiah Wells was elected captain, who continued in command until April 15, 1808, when John Mattheys (then residing in Lower Merion township, but who, later, purchased a property in Norriton township, now owned by Edward Hibbs) was duly elected captain, and continued in command for about twenty-five years. He was elected to the State Senate in 1831, and served from 1832 to 1835.

In the year 1814 (when this country was involved in the second war with Great Britain) the troop met at the public house of James Harvey, Norristown, when Captain Mattheys gave notice that the members should hold themselves in readiness to serve their country in connection with the first brigade, second division of the Pennsylvania Volunteers, and the members, without a dissenting voice, pledged themselves to be ready to assist in driving the enemy from our shores.

In September, 1824, when General Lafayette paid his last visit to Philadelphia, the troop paraded along with all the military companies of the state. And it is related that General Lafayette remarked that the horses rode by the members of the First Troop of Montgomery County were the best horses in the whole procession. This same pride of a fine horse to ride on the days of parade or drill was kept up by the members down to the last of its existence.

The troop was also called out at the execution of Minor,

who was hanged on June 21, 1832, on the Bucks county Almshouse farm, as it was feared that there would be an attempt to release him. There were several military companies there, but the troop was assigned the right in the line, and guarded the prisoner to the place of execution.

The uniform of the troop then was as follows: Black leather cap, covered with bear-skin, with a buck-tail on the right side; navy blue coatee, with scarlet breast facing; three rows of round, silver-plated buttons, about the size of a musket ball, one row in the centre and the other two on the outer edge of the scarlet facing, which was circular in form; silver braid around the collar; navy blue pantaloons, with scarlet stripe one and one-fourth inches wide down the outer seam; black cravat, long boots, silver-plated spurs, white buckskin sword-belt, which passed over the right shoulder, extending down to the left side, with silver-plated hooks by which the sword was attached; silver-plated medal in front, bearing upon its face the device of a mounted trooper, and buckskin gauntlets. The horse equipments consisted of a double bridle, with silver-plated curb and snaffle-bits; breast strap, with silver-plated breast-plate the shape of a heart; saddle, plated stirrups, blue saddle cover, covering the saddle and extending as far back as the hips of the horse, with a stripe of red cloth one and a half inches wide around the outer edge. The cost of this uniform and horse equipments, at the time the writer became a member (1841) was about one hundred dollars. The sword and pistol holsters and other accoutrements were furnished by the state.

This troop outranked all other military organizations of the county. It may be proper to state in this connection that there was another military organization, known as the Second Troop of Montgomery County, having about the same number of members, but differing from the First Troop in politics. It was the outgrowth of the division of the original troop, as above stated. Notwithstanding their political difference, a general good feeling existed between the two companies. They formed themselves into a battalion, and each company

endeavored to excel the other in drill and military department. After the resignation of Captain John Mattheys, Jacob Scheetz, son of General Henry Scheetz, of Whitemarsh township, was elected captain. How many years he continued in command is not known. Next in command was William Z. Mattheys, son of the former Captain John Mattheys, who was a brilliant officer, and the troop was in a high state of drill while under his command, which continued until about 1839. Then Robert Pollard was elected captain, but only served one year, when Dr. John A. Martin (who had been surgeon of the troop) was elected captain; Adam Hurst, first lieutenant; Henry G. Hart, second lieutenant; David Z. Mattheys, first orderly sergeant. The troop then numbered about seventy-five members, and there was a general attendance at every meeting for drill. They had a high regard for their captain, and he in turn took pride in teaching them the tactics and discipline of a soldier.

There were some changes made in the membership. Old members, who had served as volunteers the required time, according to the militia laws of the state, would retire from the service and young men would fill their places, thus keeping the company up to the standard it had held for so many years.

In the month of July, 1844, a serious riot broke out in the city of Philadelphia, which was beyond the control of the police force of the city, and the mayor called upon the governor of the state for troops to quell the riot. The first to reach the scene was a company from Germantown, who were badly handled by the rioters on Sunday night, some being killed and many wounded. On Monday, about noon, Captain Martin received orders from the governor to proceed with the troop to the city, and, although the members lived scattered over the middle and lower sections of the county, by eight o'clock of the same evening, nearly every member reported for duty (many of them being farmers, had to leave their crops unharvested). At one o'clock the next morning they commenced their march for the city, arriving at the outskirts about day-break. Many of the rougher classes shouted at them as they passed on to the headquarters of General Patterson, who was



in command of all the military, his headquarters being in the Girard bank, on Third street, near Dock. The troop was ordered to quarters at Douglass' hotel, on Sixth street, and ordered to report at headquarters three times each day, at nine in the morning, two in the afternoon, and seven in the evening. They stood in line in front of the bank in the scorching sun of July, with the privilege of dismounting and standing by their horses, as it was expected every hour that an attack would be made at some point by the rioters. This routine of duty continued from Tuesday until Saturday night, when it was thought there would be no further disturbance of the peace. The troop was, therefore, at five o'clock dismissed, to await further orders, but was not required to report at seven, as had been the custom. Consequently, the members availed themselves of the opportunity of seeing something of the city, and were scattered about at different places. But about eight o'clock an officer from headquarters rode with orders to mount immediately and report to General Patterson, as there was an attack made at the Moyamensing prison to release some of the prisoners. The alarm spread all over the city, and there was a rally for boots and saddles and mount, and in a very short time every member was in his place ready for service. As the troop reached Third street they found the street packed with people in front of General Patterson's headquarters and extending up and down several squares. The sentinels in front of the bank were unable to keep the crowd back, but as the column pressed on, the people gave way, and a passage was cleared in front of the bank and the crowd began to diminish.

The next order was that the First Troop, together with Captain Archambault's troop from Bucks county, should proceed to the prison to ascertain the state of affairs there. When the prison was reached some of the officers rode forward and found that it was a false alarm. The troop returned to headquarters and reported all quiet. They were then dismissed for the night, and, as there was no further outbreak, all were discharged the following Tuesday and returned to their homes.

At the commencement of the Mexican War, Captain Martin proposed to offer the service of the troop to the government, but a number of members refused to accede to the proposition. Many withdrew, and shortly after Dr. Martin resigned and went to California. Lieutenant Hurst was elected captain, but the membership declined very much, and was on the eve of disbanding, when Dr. Martin returned from California. There was a proposition to re-elect him, when Captain Hurst withdrew altogether from the troop, which was then reorganized by the election of Dr. J. A. Martin, captain; H. C. Hoover, first lieutenant; and Jacob Hoover, second lieutenant. The uniform was also changed to the following: Beaver cap, ornamented with horse-hair plume and eagle in front, buff cord and tassels; blue coat, with buff collar, cuffs and skirt facings, oval buttons (yellow); sky-blue pantaloons, with a buff stripe down the outer seam one and one-fourth inches wide; black cravat, long boots, yellow spurs and white sword belt, with plate in front. The horse equipments were similar to the former, except yellow mounting was used instead of silver-plated. Many of the old members refused to equip themselves in the new uniform, but the ranks were soon filled by new members without regard to politics, as the Second Troop had disbanded, and according to the fourth article of the constitution adopted, any white male person of good moral character, between the ages of eighteen and forty-five, would be eligible to membership, but must receive the vote of two-thirds of the members present at the meeting when proposed, provided a majority of the members be present at such meeting. The members were nearly equally divided politically, and the same military deportment characterized the membership which had always heretofore made it respected wherever it paraded.

Charles Thomson Jones, of Roxborough, captain of the Roxborough troop, extended an invitation to the First Troop of Montgomery County to participate in the unveiling of the monument erected in the Leverington cemetery in memory of Virginia soldiers of the Revolutionary war, who were sur-

prised and bayoneted while asleep by a squad of British soldiers sent by a Tory. The troop accepted the invitation and participated in the ceremonies. As Captain Martin was unable to attend on account of the death of his father, First Lieutenant H. C. Hoover took command on this occasion. General Patterson and several other prominent military men were present.

At the opening of hostilities of the civil war a meeting was ordered by the captain, and the question of offering the services of the troop was discussed. Several of the members concluded that it was impossible for them to leave their families and farms (and it was composed largely of farmers), and when the vote was taken it was a tie. It is but proper to state in this connection that this was not a party vote, but each member voted as he viewed his own private circumstances, and, although the troop did not go as then organized, many of the single men volunteered in other companies, and several lost their lives on battlefields. Owing to the continuation of the war, and the members enlisting in other military organizations, the troop disbanded, after an existence of over sixty years.

The following is a list of members of the troop who reported for duty at the time of the riots in Philadelphia, in July, 1844:

John A. Martin, captain; Adam Hurst, second lieutenant. Non-commissioned officers, musicians and privates:—William Bickings, Henry Baker, James Burnsides, Samuel Beyer, Richard Bickings, George Burkheimer, Samuel Beideman, Joseph Bruner, Jesse Bean, Joseph Cleaver, Henry Culp, Levi Cope, Philip Custer, George Cowden, Lemuel Eastburn, Amos Erb, Bennet Fulmer, Allen Fleck, Philip S. Gerhard, Peter Gilbert, Franklin Gouldy, Joseph Hague, Daniel S. Heist, Jacob Highley, Jacob Hallman, Hiram C. Hoover, Jacob Hoover, Andrew Hart, George Hoof, Jacob Hurst, David Lukens, William Logan, Samuel Lightcap, David Z. Mattheys, William Martin, Charles Newman, Elwood Norney, Isaiah Richards, George Sensenderfer, Conrad Sheive, William Teany, John Walker, George H. Wentz, James Highley.

In addition to these, and besides those previously mentioned, the writer (although he may unintentionally omit some) recalls from memory the following, who were at some time members of the troop:

George K. Ritter, Solomon Norney, Solomon Katz, Kline Shoemaker, Benjamin Baker, John Hesser, Sennica Radcliff, Thomas Bitting, Charles Hurst, David Marple, Amos Yost, Abraham Anders, George Rittenhouse, Andrew J. Hoover, Algernon J. Hoover, Andrew H. Baker, Marshall DeHaven, William Werkheiser, Henry Werkheiser, Benjamin Harrar, Dr. Milton Newbury, Jackson Walker, Isaac Z. Lysinger, Napoleon B. Holland, James Busby, Wilmer F. Gerhart, Isaac Fryer, William Greager.

Much of these reminiscences is based on the writer's personal recollections, as he was connected with the organization at different periods, amounting altogether to sixteen years.

## THE SECOND TROOP, MONTGOMERY COUNTY CAVALRY.

By Major William H. Holstein.

Having been appointed to give you a history of the Second Troop, Montgomery County Cavalry, I regret to say there is but little of its early history at my command, from which I can derive the desired information. My father, George W. Holstein, who was for many years Colonel of the cavalry battalion, was probably the first Captain of the Second Troop. He was followed by Andrew Shainline and others. Richard A. Edey was the last Captain of the Troop. He afterwards removed to Illinois. I have been informed that he is no longer living. I have been unable to learn whether any of the records of the Troop were left in the county by Captain Edey, or any of his officers.

The only matters of interest at my command relating to the Troop, are its closing scenes, connected with the last grand parade of the military of Montgomery county previous to the late rebellion. This took place at Pottstown, in October, 1841.

The cavalry battalion of the county at that time on parade was composed of the First Troop, Captain William Z. Mattheys; Second Troop, Captain Richard A. Edey; Third Troop, Captain Smith; First National Dragoons, Captain Fry; visitors: First Troop Chester County Cavalry, First and Second Troops Berks County Cavalry.

Besides the cavalry parading on that day there were seven artillery and infantry companies of Montgomery county, two artillery companies from Berks county, and two infantry companies from Chester county, about 700 rank and file. Commander-in-chief, Governor David Rittenhouse Porter; Aids, Colonel William J. Leiper, Colonel C. R. Servoss, Colonel Andrews, Colonel James Cameron; Commander, General

George Hartman; Aid, Major John Rutter; Adjutant, General Diller; Aid, Colonel James H. Keim; Brigade Inspector, Colonel James Bush; Brigade Major, J. R. Murphy; Brigade Adjutant, William H. Holstein; Quarter Master, William M. Huddy; Assistant Quarter Master, Levi Hoffaker; Surgeon, Dr. D. M. Foot; Assistant Surgeon, Dr. J. A. Martin.

The next parade of the cavalry battalion, consisting of the First and Second Troops, Montgomery county, was on the 31st of October, 1842, when they served as escort to Colonel R. M. Johnson and Honorable James Buchanan, from Germantown to Philadelphia.

November 7, 1842. The battalion was ordered by Major Pawling to assemble this day for parade and inspection at Barren Hill. The Captain of the Second Troop, with his two Lieutenants, only were present, while the First Troop was out in force. The officers of the Second Troop appearing without their command, resulted in a court martial being ordered by Brigadier General John H. Hobart, for the trial of the said officers for disobedience of orders, unofficer-like conduct, etc. The court consisted of Colonel Henry Beyer, President; Lieutenant Colonel Augustus W. Shearer, Lieutenant Colonel Charles Garet, Major Samuel Hogeland, Captain Daniel Fry, members; Josiah W. Evans, Judge Advocate. The trial lasted several days; the Captain and his two Lieutenants were found guilty of insubordination, and directed to pay a fine, which was remitted.

The Second Troop was called into service and reported for duty at the riots in Philadelphia in July, 1844. They were on duty there for eight days. They also took part in a large military demonstration at Paoli on the anniversary of the massacre. I can not recall the year. Several of their horses were hurt at a sham battle there. At another military encampment, at Doylestown, twenty-three companies being present, a sham battle was fought, in which this organization participated.

The Second Troop disbanded several years prior to the First Troop. Captain Edey moved West. The members lost interest in the organization and it went to pieces.

The following is a list of members of the Second Troop Montgomery County Cavalry shortly before it disbanded: Richard A. Edey, Captain; Henry S. Hitner, First Lieutenant; John Wentz, Second Lieutenant. Non-commissioned officers, musicians and privates—John Foulke, Surgeon; Charles T. Rogers, Cornet; Abram Weaver, First Sergeant; John I. Kersey, Quarter Master; William H. Cress, Trumpeter; Isaac Bell, George W. Bisbing, Lephemia Bolton, Moulton C. R. Dager, Mark DeHaven, Allen Dunehower, William H. Eder, Henry Edey, Andrew Famous, George Famous, Charles Fisher, George W. Fisher, Jeremiah Freas, Walton Freas, William Fratt, Alexander Fulton, William Gilmore, Charles Hallowell, George B. Hampton, Stacey Haines, Samuel Henderson, Geo. W. Henderson, William Hiltner, Jacob Hinkle, Septimus W. Jones, John P. Knapp, David Livergood, William M. Lukens, Isaac Markley, William Michener, Edward Preston, Ross Rambo, Reuben Y. Ramsey, Edward Rhine, Anderson Stewart, Charles Stewart, Mark Supplee, George W. Supplee, Chas. Slifer, Wells Tomlinson, Thomas Tomlinson, Washington Ulrich, Charles Weak, Abram Wentz, Thomas H. Wentz, George Wolf, Mordecai DeHaven.

## CLOCK AND WATCHMAKERS OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY.

By M. Auge.

The importance of marking the flight of time, especially during the obscurations of the sun, has been one of the prime necessities of mankind in all ages; hence the ancients had their hour-glasses for measuring time by the running of the sand or water, after which sun-dials served the purpose for daily use in fair weather, while aspects of sun, moon and stars marked years, months and cycles.

Although the division of time into hours, minutes and seconds by 12 and 60, as indicated by our time-keepers, seems to be arbitrary and not natural, still we follow the ancient custom of reckoning by 12 instead of 24, the number of hours in a completed day. They, the ancients, recorded the first hour of the equinoxial day at sunrise, and counted twelve at sunset, while their nights were divided into four watches of three hours each, ending at sunrise, the time of beginning making twelve hours for the night also. With us, the necessity of having uniform traveling time will probably lead to the construction of new time-pieces, graduated to twenty-four hour dials, corresponding with such traveling time-tables.

Clocks are said to have been invented and used as early as the sixth century; but until the revival of learning in the sixteenth, they do not seem to have been regarded as reliable for practical use. The first one recorded in English history was made by Richard Wallingford, a monk, in 1326. Two hundred years later Gallileo invented the pendulum, which was practically added to the clock by Huygens, a German, in 1662, since which time clocks have been one of the fixtures of our higher civilization.



Previous to the Revolution, clock and watch-making could hardly be reckoned a trade in America, except in a few of the chief cities; yet we, of Montgomery county, claim the honor and distinction of producing the first eminent clock and watch-maker, as also astronomer, who attracted the attention of our whole country, as also the learned and ingenious of Europe, and that, too, in the colonial age, between 1750 and 1760. This distinguished man was David Rittenhouse.

Having very briefly discussed the importance of recording the lapse of time, the history of its divisions, and the earliest inventors of time-keepers, you will indulge me in a few reflections and speculations as to how it is that so many of our American geniuses have had the temerity to meddle with, and master untaught, the most complicated and delicate of all machines—the clock and watch? Of this we have two or three instances to record presently. Indeed, there is nothing so marks the versatility of American genius as the thousands of untaught experts at clock and watch-making, who have gained distinction in spite of the English motto, “Let the cobbler stick to his last and awl.” I will just cite a case or two within my own knowledge to illustrate this national trait. A young lad, who was familiar with edged tools in infancy (his father being a joiner), at the proper age, served a full apprenticeship as tanner and currier, and at majority turned away from it to farming, which he followed to middle life, in the meantime making most of his farm implements, and then, without any technical instruction, set up and followed successfully the business of a master carpenter for the rest of his life.

Here, also, before entering upon the details of my task, I desire to state a principle that lies at the base of all inventive genius and industrial progress—the necessity of introducing children *to the use* of various tools and the manner of using them. Our public school system will never be perfect until this shall be a feature of instruction, when every one shall be introduced to his or her *born* calling.

Here I return to time and time-pieces.

In our region of country, watches were little used in the early part of the present century, and clocks were still scarcer. In the locality of my childhood days (southeastern Chester county) my recollection is, that within a radius of three miles, previous to 1820, not a half dozen clocks of any kind were running to give note of passing time, and watches were not much more numerous. Farmers rose by the crowing of the cock, and going to work with the rising sun; were called to dinner by a horn, sounded when a shadow reached a meridian point fixed by a surveyor's watch or compass. A few had sun-dials; but when cloudy, noon-time was reached by guess. I knew one old lady, who, in summer, could tell high noon to a second by seeing a gleam of sunshine darting down her chimney.

About 1826-28 all this was changed. The Yankee wooden clocks in wagon loads were driven over the country, and every well-to-do family soon had one on the mantel, and very soon after, mechanics in cities and large towns began to talk about "working the hours—from six to six."

I come now to the strict subject-matter of my undertaking—the deeds and *personnel* of the clock and watch-makers of Montgomery county. First on the list, therefore, comes our great and good patriot, before referred to, David Rittenhouse. Though afterwards most renowned as a philosopher and statesman, he won his earliest distinction as a clock and watch-maker. This eminent man was the son of Matthias and Elizabeth Rittenhouse, and was born near Germantown 1732, and died 1796. With his father's family he removed, when a small boy, to Norriton township, five miles northwest of Norristown. Contrary to the wishes of his father, who intended him for a farmer, he early began to show his aptness at mechanical contrivances, and before his eighteenth year, constructed a serviceable wooden clock, which his nephew and biographer, Dr. Barton, asserts, was the only one of that *primitive sort* he ever made. But in early childhood, having access to a chest of tools owned by a deceased uncle, he continued to invent, contrive, and repair the few clocks and

watches of the neighborhood. But taking his brother Benjamin into partnership, they continued to work and contrive until by 1760, when they had made several brass time-pieces.

In his early youth, Rittenhouse had but the most limited instruction in elementary studies. He formed later, however, the acquaintance of school-master Barton, who opened to his mind the higher mathematics and philosophy. This was at the period of early manhood. His father, at last perceiving the unchangeable bent of his mind, furnished him a small sum of money, which procured him, in Philadelphia, better tools, so that, in addition to astronomical clocks, he conceived and executed the project of making an orrery, or planetarium, to show at one view the whole solar system. This he did while occupying his little shop at his father's homestead, near our present Fairview village. This wonderful machine, which won the commendation of the scientists of that day, he sold to Princeton College for three hundred pounds, and after removing to Philadelphia, in 1770 constructed another for Pennsylvania University, and sold it for the same price. He soon thus became famous, not only in America but Europe, as the maker of chronometers, time-pieces and mathematical instruments of various kinds. His biographer, Dr. Barton, asserts that he never received an hour's instruction in practical mechanics, but was wholly self-taught. The same was mainly true of his acquirements in the abstract sciences, including astronomy. His achievements in surveying and astronomy, being out of the line of our purpose here, as, also, his manufacture of metallic thermometers, are not enlarged upon. His mind having a wide grasp, it was impossible to confine such a man to mere mechanics; so he took up inter-state surveying, and serving the commonwealth also as state treasurer during the Revolution and subsequent to it.

The only other "clock-maker" that Montgomery county has produced, that deserves comparison with Rittenhouse, is the late Jacob D. Custer, of Norristown, who, for the sake of chronological order, is passed for a moment to name others who formed the connecting links between them. The follow-

ing is a brief description of the names and places of business of most of them; and because they were not distinguished, except as worthy mechanics, the account of each must be brief. Probably the earliest clock and watch-repairers—for most of them were only such—since Rittenhouse, resided in Norristown, as it was the only considerable town in the county for a long time. The first that we have any account of at the county seat was William Bevens, whose advertisement first appears in Norristown papers, November 1816, four years after the town was incorporated, and whose death was therein recorded with much manifestation of respect and feeling June 1819. His son-in-law, George Govett, continued the business, but removing, in April, 1831, to Philadelphia. John Whitehead advertises himself as his successor. About this time, perhaps earlier, Joseph Thomas learned the business with a man named Griffith, in Philadelphia, and it is thought followed clock and watch repairing in Whitpain or Norriton township, but never set up a shop in the business, but was, for many years prior to the time of his death, an officer of a Pottsville bank, and the Bank of Montgomery County. It is proper here to mention Seneca Lukens, near Horsham Meeting (father of the celebrated Isaiah Lukens), who was also a self-taught clock-maker, and with whom his son learned the trade. He made a clock for each of his four daughters—a set-out on their marriage—and some of them are still running. Isaiah removed to Philadelphia and became famous as the maker of the state-house and Lollar Academy clocks. After Seneca Lukens died and his son removed to Philadelphia, Nicholas Kohl, a shoemaker, commenced cleaning clocks, on Doylestown road, near Willow Grove. He also made a number of "grand-father" clocks, still in the neighborhood and in service.

But the most distinguished clock, watch-maker and inventor of our county in later times was Jacob D. Custer, born March 5, 1805, and died September 30, 1872, aged sixty-seven years. His early life is thus given: When a half-grown boy he was required to help his mother spin, and having a daily task to perform, would often rise at two o'clock a. m to finish

it so that he might gain time in daylight to practice his inventive genius with tools. When the clock-repairer of the neighborhood died, he stepped into the place, having got an insight into "movements" by taking his father's watch apart and repairing it while he was gone to market. He never had but six weeks schooling, yet managed to learn reading, writing and arithmetic at home. By his nineteenth year, entirely untaught, he set up his business at township line road, traveling around to repair clocks and watches at times when not employed at home. This place was midway between Shannonville and Jeffersonville, where he had a clock dial placed in the window, pointing the time, as a business sign. At this time, and for a period later, he kept a horse and light wagon, in which he drove around, plying his trade for considerable distances from home. In 1832 he removed to Norristown and set up his business, though he had never had an hour's instruction in the art from others, and announced his business, as follows, in the papers: "Jacob D. Custer has commenced clock and watch-making one door above Thomas and Hooven's store," Swede and Main. Underneath are appended this further notice and certificate: "He keeps on hand and makes patent clocks at short notice. The following persons have bought and used my clocks: A. T. McFarland, March, 1832; Jos. S. Pennypacker, August, 1831; Abraham Rhawn, January, 1832; Abraham Heebner, March, 1831."

Not long after, Mr. Custer removed to near the corner of Main and Green streets (where his brother Isaac learned the trade with him), and until he erected a new brick store and workshop on Main, below Strawberry. Very soon after he got settled at Main and Green streets, he began to make steeple or town clocks. About 1834 he made one, and proposed to place it on a school-house belfry near by, on Green street, but the town council purchased it, and it was placed in the belfry of the old court house, where it ran, keeping good time until 1853, when the building was torn down; but the clock was removed and set up elsewhere; and he made a new one for the present court house.

He began early to erect town clocks, the principal movements made of cast iron. Of the number, he erected one each at Uniontown, Danville, Gettysburg, Phoenixville, Germantown, Schuylkill Falls, Coatesville, Glassborough, and Bridgeton, N. J., and Salem, Ohio, as also sending others to South Carolina, Alabama, and other southern states; as also one for an eating house on Market street, Philadelphia.

According to Chas. S. Crossman, who has written "a complete history of watch-making in America," our Jacob D. Custer was the *third* American maker of a serviceable watch, Luther Goddert ranking first and Henry F. Pitkin being second, Custer's watches being made between 1840 and 1845. About 1850 he made for the United States government a number of "fog-bells" (his own invention) to warn mariners on our coast of shoals and hidden rocks in misty weather. In building and inventing these he had the advice and assistance of General Meade and Professor Bache. During the rebellion he invented a Minie bullet machine, which he sold to Mr. Tatem, of Philadelphia, much below its true value; a machine that would mould several tons in a few days. He patented a valuable contrivance for lubricating engine journals under steam pressure. He took out a number of patents for watches, clocks, harvesters, etc. He early began, not only to repair, but actually *make* gold and silver watches for friends who ordered them. Among these, one for each of the following: William H. Slingluff and wife, John Jacobs, Uriah Thomas, and several others. These were entirely made by himself, except the main and hair springs. He also made a sewing machine for his wife. In 1850 Mr. Custer went into the heavy machinery business, in connection with the watch and clock trade, but soon after closed the latter and erected a shop on Lafayette street for erecting steam engines and other heavy work, in connection with his patent town clocks. This business he continued to the time of his death.

Mr. Custer was not a man of many scientific attainments even in mechanics, but a wonderful mechanical inventor by simple intuition. As proof of this, "a Cincinnati man, who

heard of him, inquired if he could construct an automaton parasol-opener for his show-window, which Mr. C. accomplished on a mere description of what was wanted."

It ought to have been stated before that Mr. Custer's brother Isaac, who learned the trade with him, set up watch and clock-making in Norristown, but after following it a time quit in 1837 or 1838, and went west. The shop he vacated, near Sower's old book-store, was immediately occupied by William D. Rapp, a Philadelphia watch-maker, who sent the late Daniel H. Stein, then an apprentice, with other help, to run the store. Mr. S. soon after succeeded to the business, which he continued to the time of his death, in 1885, over forty years. With Mr. Stein, Washington Koplin learned the business, and became his competitor in Norristown for a period of nearly twenty-five years, till his death. Near 1850 William Robertson established a watch and clock shop above the Montgomery bank, and had great patronage till the time of his death, 1875 or 1876. He was considered a very accomplished watch-maker. The business was continued by his son-in-law, David Rogers. About 1849 Henry Leibert, a hatter by trade, but a watch and clock-maker also (learned of his father in early life), started a store at near DeKalb and Main, drifted into jewelry manufacture with Samuel Brown some years later, but lost his life by an explosion of gunpowder, with which he was experimenting below Norristown, as also did his partner in the enterprise, William Reiff.

Albert B. Parker, of DeKalb street, Norristown, began about 1879 the watch, clock and spectacle trade; and Thaddeus S. Adle, a little subsequent to 1870, also began, and continues at Main, below DeKalb; as also George Alker near by, within a year or two past. A German, named Gus. Lantz, on DeKalb, is an enterprising time artist and spectacle dealer; and J. E. Boucot, at Main, near Cherry; with J. D. Sallade at 16 East Main; S. C. Levy & Co., at Airy and DeKalb, comprise the profession at the present time, doing business in Norristown, it being understood that the long-established con-

cerns of the late Washington Koplin and Daniel H. Stein are continued by the widows of each respectively.

The clock and watch-makers of Pottstown have been the following: David Leigh was a famous clock and watch-maker of the olden time. At a subsequent date, John A. Andre was a noted clock and watch-maker and dentist. Mr. Andre was not only an artist but a politician also. D. K. Hatfield is probably the longest established now in the upper borough. Aaron Hartenstine, D. H. Shiffert, H. C. Boone and Edward Kerper (the last having a reputation for great ingenuity) make up the present time artists of the upper borough.

In Sumneytown, in early times, Faber had a wide reputation, and Solliday at Montgomeryville, as also Daniel Sheidt, lately deceased, at Sumneytown. James B. Ray is a very successful watch and clock-maker at Conshohocken; also, F. B. Righter and F. J. Bloomhall. In Bridgeport the trade is filled by Charles E. Leigh, B. Frank Fry and George Hart. Jesse Wanner, some years ago, followed the business at the Trooper, in Norriton.

In early times the lower end of the county was well supplied with amateur clock and watch-makers. Alfred Graves, an Englishman, son of the great cutler of Sheffield, occasionally repaired clocks near Willow Grove. William Homer, the elder, of Upper Dublin or Moreland, was a self-taught clock and watch-repairer, his specialty being the purchase of unserviceable time-pieces, and repairing and selling them at a profit. A grand-nephew of his, Wm. Homer, Esq., now of Norristown, has been for years a self-taught expert at repairing clocks, watches and even guns. Alan Wakefield, of Hatboro, commenced the business of repairing clocks and watches some years ago, and has followed it to the present time. At present the borough of Hatboro has a very pretentious establishment, of which optical implements are a decided feature, which is run by J. S. Garner. And James Ogden keeps time-pieces ticking in Jenkintown. At the Trappe, Clinton Shuler has been the artist for many years.



In this hasty review (already too long) some notable mechanics in this line *may* have been overlooked, as also some interesting anecdotes of Isaiah Lukens, Jacob D. Custer, and others, have been excluded for lack of space and time.

## YESTERDAY'S SUNSET.

By William McDermott.

As we grow near the sunset of life, we are prone to look back and live in the sunny hours of the day that had its opening for us. There are those, who, in the evening time, are disposed to look upon the past with regret, and bemoan their lot and the varied actions of their past lives. We, therefore, oftentimes hear the remark that if "I had my life to live over again, how very different would I act, and how much better I should be off now." We take this to be a delusion; for, as intelligent persons, with our environment, we did the best we could; and that is true, not only in our days of youth, but practically through our whole lives. Believing, as we do, in a superintending, personal Providence that controls our action, while we are conscious of being in the most absolute sense "free agents," "there's a divinity that shapes our ends, rough-hew them how we will." Therefore, if we have, to the best of our ability, discharged the duties of the years gone by as they have presented themselves, we may feel content. Looking to the Lord to pardon all done amiss, for Christ's sake, he may serenely march to the sunset of life with sublime peace.

Those in the morning of their life's journey, with the dew of youth upon their brows, have the golden light of the grand future spread before them. And it is a grand aspiration of the young heart to build "castles in the air," and have that castle all illumined with the brilliant rays of undying hope. Even if the "castle" be dismantled, there has been joy in its building, and a pleasure in its even temporary possession. Let the young have their rainbow future, and those of us older calmly and peacefully enjoy the golden rays of the "setting sun."

In this paper I propose to "look back;" not perhaps in chronological order, but as the events of the past come troop-

ing up. We are told the mind never forgets. As an illustration. More than fifty years ago a lot of us "little folks" were sent to a school kept by two maiden ladies, in their home, corner of Green and Airy streets, Norristown, and when they gave up, I remember crying; and in 1837, when Eliphalet Roberts kept the "Academy," which stood on DeKalb street, facing Airy street, at the close the boys and girls bid good-bye with real grief. The Norristown Academy was an endowed institution, receiving appropriation from the state, and a legacy was left it by Mr. Winnard, who had at that time the Norristown Register.

During repairs made at the First Presbyterian Church, the Baptists and Presbyterians held a joint protracted meeting here. There was a preacher from the "Valley," a Baptist, who was very irreverently called the "hell fire preacher." He was to preach on a certain night, and a lot of fellows got a huge bale of cotton waste (old cotton saturated with oil); inside was placed a canister of powder, with a slow match. Just at the time of the "appeal," and that hymn given out commencing, "That awful day will surely come, The appointed hour makes haste," off went the blast, and on rushing to the door the air was seen to be full of falling flakes of *fire*, and the "awful day" had surely come; some cried, some fainted, some prayed and some swore, some dropped on their knees and some ran down the street as if the recruiting officer was on their heels. It was in the old Academy where lectures were given. Mr. Hough once taught there; Rev. Samuel Aaron occupied it for awhile. In the rear was a cultivated field, where, when the crops were off, we boys played ball. On the square bounded by Airy, Penn, DeKalb and Green streets, was the dwellings of Samuel Sherwood, one a stone, the other a little, plastered, one-story house; the balance of the square was an orchard, where, if the "boys" did not steal the fruit, the old gentleman would be very generous to all of us. He lived almost alone, and had the reputation of being *very* rich for those years.

The Episcopal church was the oldest of all our churches. Rev. N. Stem was one of the old land marks among the min-

isters of the borough—tall, venerable and dignified, and of decided pulpit ability. Rev. Mr. May was at one time minister. The second church was the First Presbyterian, built about 1817. How well we remember that white stone building, occupying the site of the present First Church. In front was a row of Lombardy poplars and a little yard, with a wide vestibule. Here the good people met on Sabbath mornings to speak to each other. Ulrich Schlater, David Getty, David Wolmer, William Powell and Robert Hamell were the elders. An old black man, Jacob Glasgow, was a prominent and useful man. William Powell, William McDermott, and others held what was called cottage prayer meetings, around from house to house. How earnest Mr. Powell was in his work, and towards the close of his life with what energy he would sing. Rev. Mr. Barr, Rev. Mr. Nassau and Rev. Robert Adair were among the early pastors. Mr. Adair, as early as 1834, made temperance addresses, for which he was pelted with rotten eggs, and once, out of sheer disrespect, was elected constable. In those early years, the munificent salary of six hundred dollars a year was paid the pastor, and thirty dollars a year to the janitor. This church has been the scene of wonderful revivals in the past, particularly under the pastorate of Rev. Samuel M. Gould, when upon more than one occasion almost an hundred persons united with the church at one time. Mr. Gould was often aided by that eloquent preacher, Rev. Mr. Anspach, of Barren Hill, and on other occasions by Rev. Mr. Helffenstein, of Germantown; this grand man was a preacher of wonderful power, not sensational, but impressive. A large congregation assembled at one time in the audience room, when he preached on "A Lost Soul;" those who wished to were asked to remain, and the entire congregation, except two men, remained to the after meeting.

A trick was played on one of the old elders of this church. He kept a store on Main street, nearly opposite the Central Presbyterian Church, a half-century or more back; everything was sold from potatoes to French broadcloth, and all kinds of liquors. One winter night, a man called, and wanted

a quart of whiskey. He wore a cloak around his shoulders. After getting the whiskey, he could not pay for it, and the motto "no trust" was the rule. "Well, then," said the purchaser, "you must take it back." The jug was handed back, and the contents poured into the barrel. As the old fellow was going out of the door, he said: "Well, that was a trade where I came out first best, and the store keeper lost nothing. I had two jugs, one filled with water, the other empty; I got the whiskey in the empty jug, and handed back the jug with the water."

During a revival at this church, Tom —— came into one of the meetings; it was held in the lecture room. Tom was a little "tight," and about mid-way of the service he got up, walked the whole length of the room, and planked down a "quarter." "There, take *that* for *my* share. I have given more attention to this church because my parents were among its early members as far back as 1820, and I united with this church in February, 1843, when 93 stood up together to take our vows."

From an old record, I find such names as follows identified with this First Church: John Dykes, Daniel Diehl, John McFarland, William McGlathery, Isaac Huddleson, Zadok Thomas, Alexander and Hugh Crawford, Dr. Jones Davis, Archibald Darrah, Josiah Evans, Thomas Stroud, Jacob and Isaac Custer, Robert E. Porter, George Govett, Samuel Jamison, Robert Stinson, Margaret Knox, John Chain, John Brough, Edward Magee. Methodist and Baptist first followed.

We at times think the world is growing worse. But aside from what I have already referred to, one or two other instances will show we are growing better. There was a young man who was a ventriloquist. He, with a lot of cronies, would go to some of our meetings, particularly the Methodist, and when the whole congregation felt good and was singing, he would put his head on the front of the pew and make all sorts of noises, like the mewing of a cat or the snarling of a dog, and the good deacons would go off on a

hunting expedition after the intruder. Once during a protracted meeting a dead horse was laid on the steps of the church, and as the congregation came out in the darkness they stumbled pell-mell over each other; and during the anti-slavery excitement the windows of the Baptist church were broken by a mob. If there are greater crimes they are more hidden, although we have the great evil of intemperance, that is still the fruitful source of untold misery, wretchedness and crime.

My father built a house on Airy street, below Cherry, in 1837, where he died, May 4, 1838. Looking out of the front door there was not more than half a dozen houses north or east to be seen, except farm houses, and many of us remember the first house above Stony creek. The land speculators told about what was the prospect above there, but it was called "The Land of Promise"—especially the *promise*. Opposite our old home was Potter's field.

About 1788, as we have often been told by "Aunt Betsy Thomson," the first execution took place. The man's name was John Brown. The gallows was erected at the corner of Swede and Airy streets. But the night before the execution the gallows was torn down, and the poor fellow was hung somewhere near Elm and Powel streets.

At the time of my going into the Montgomery County Bank, in May, 1850, there was but one bank in the county, with an authorized capital of \$400,000, but not all paid up at that time. The bank was then in a dwelling house, occupied by that prince of bankers, William H. Slingluff, who had not his superior in the state as a skilled and successful bank manager. On the first of March, this year, there were eighteen national banks, with an aggregate capital of \$2,226,000, with a surplus fund of \$1,113,000, footing up as the available capital of the national banks alone of \$3,339,000. Add to this the state trust, deposit and savings institutions, and the amount would exceed \$5,000,000. Then copying presses were not in use, not even envelopes, as a general thing. Such a change in the security of safes. Then, what was really only a deep

recess in the wall, with sheet-iron doors, large locks, and great, heavy keys. At present this bank has a most splendid safe and doors, worth as much probably as the whole bank building fifty years ago. But those "days of yore" were the times for making money, when each bank made its own circulation. It was the season of "wild-cat" banking and "shinplaster" circulation as well, when a pocketful of money would hardly pay your way from here to Washington, considering the perpetual "shaving" process you had to undergo. But now we have the best banking system that this nation or any other country has ever had; a sure protection to depositor and note-holder, and a currency that makes every man feel safe when he gets his wages that he will get dollar for dollar.

At the time of the publication of *The Truth*, at the office of the *Norristown Herald*, edited by Rev. Samuel Aaron, in 1843, I entered, in September of that year, the *Herald* office to learn the "art preservative of all arts." We had an old "Smith" hand press for all kinds of job work, as well as printing the papers. And we used the same, great heavy press for printing small hand-bills and even cards. That was all we had, and a "token" an hour (240 impressions) was a fair hour's work, if kept up until we got the edition of about nine hundred copies off. Thursday and Friday were "press days." Now go into the splendidly equipped office of the *Herald* and see the presses running off their thousands an hour. There are steam presses that turn out ninety thousand complete papers in an hour. As a matter of enterprise once, the message of the President, delivered on Monday, got into the *Herald* that same week. But were "we" not proud, from Mr. Iredell down to the "devil," when we issued "our" paper, all new, with "bourgeois" and "minion." We thought it was the handsomest sheet in the state.

In one of the great processions of the Clay campaign I had a press in the parade and distributed Whig songs along the whole route of the miles the procession journeyed. In those times there was the "pony express" to bring the returns, and all we hoped to hear from was the county. As

the tidings would come in from Horsham, Abington, and the "lower end," there would be extended figuring and rejoicing. But when we heard from the "upper end," Sumneytown and the like, we lost heart and went to bed, for the county would go Democratic all the way from eight to eighteen hundred majority. But there was no such thing as fail. W. H. Slingluff, B. Markley Boyer and Lloyd Jones were the leaders in the Whig ranks and John B. Sterigere the controlling power with the Democrats. Lloyd Jones' series of articles over the signature of "Spectator," were probably the most vigorous and effective political articles ever written in our county in those years. Just on the eve of a hotly-contested election both parties claimed the old court house. The Democrats had it first. Then the Whigs tried to get possession, but out went the lights. The confusion threatened to develop into a riot, when Judge Krause came upon the scene and commanded order and quietness.

After the public school system started the schools were held in a little two-story frame building on Church street, close to the Episcopal church. There we had Winfield S. and Hilary Hancock for our classmates. Then the basement of the Methodist church on Main street, now used as a factory, and an old barn, corner of Mill and Lafayette streets. Compare those places with the grand structures Norristown now has. Of course there was no such apparatus to illustrate any of the principles of philosophy, chemistry or astronomy, or even maps of any practical value. The master at the school on Mill street undertook to whip John H——, when John ran out of the school and into the creek that runs by the depot, and when about the middle of the stream, put his thumb to his nose and twirled his fingers in defiance of the pedagogue, who declined to follow his pupil into the "vasty deep."

John B. Sterigere, a distinguished lawyer, politician and old bachelor, took a great interest in improving the streets of the borough. He was very greatly censured at times, but the more fault-finding the more he went on his way, and when Lafayette street was opened it was called "Sterigere's Canal."



In after years it was found that much of his work was very valuable. There is a story told of Mr. Sterigere that indicated his political power. He was asked by a friend to canvass the county to secure the nomination of his friend for a high political office. The canvass was made, but upon the first ballot Sterigere *himself* was nominated. The beauty of our present borough, in the arrangement of the grade and width of our streets, is due to the gentlemen who controlled the affairs of the borough. There was Mr. Slingluff, C. Heebner, Charles Christman, and others whose names we do not now recall. For a long time the town council met in the room between the bar-room and entry of the Montgomery House.

David Sower took an active interest in public matters. He was interested in the first temperance hotel ever started in our borough.

There has been an amazing stride. On the corner of Swede and Main streets stood a one-story frame and plastered building, so low that the boys could from the court-house hill climb upon the roof. In here were two small hand-engines, made by Pat Lyon, and the smaller of the two the maker named after himself. The members of this fire company had at their homes a certain number of leather buckets. When the alarm was sounded each of the members, if winter-time, put on his overcoat, big boots, and grabbed his fire buckets, and off to the scene of the conflagration. One of those scenes comes before me at present. At the corner of Main and DeKalb streets, where the drug store is now, was a hotel. In one of the upper rooms a secret society held its meetings. A bitter cold night a fire took place. There was a pump about opposite the *Herald* office. The hand-engines were placed close to the burning building, and a string of men, women and boys was formed from the pump to the engines; two men at the pump and sixteen at the handles of the engines. Those at the pump and engines had to rest off about every half hour and others took their places, and the water buckets were passed along from one to another. About half of the water was spilled on the journey. Then the pumps would give out,

and all had to wait awhile. In the meantime the fire made headway. Fortunately, Norristown has been spared from the ravages of this destructive element in the years gone by, until now we stand in the front ranks, with all the necessary equipments, with splendid apparatus, and effective companies for the protection of the borough. Picture the bucket brigade and the hand-engine with number one of our steam fire engines and trained horses. As a step in advance a bucket company was formed, with a carriage to carry the buckets to the fire. But the leather buckets and bucket carriage are amongst the relics of the past.

Perhaps we have made less advance here than at any other point. But many of our older people will remember the market wagons stretched along the sidewalk on the east side of Swede street, from Main to Airy street, on the three mornings of the week. There the butchers, the farmers and the truck-men were gathered, and a great crowd it used to be, too. *That* was a step in advance from these same class of dealers going around from house to house. The departure from the curbstone was the DeKalb street market. The intention at first was to have outside as well as inside stalls; the outside were to be rented at a cheaper rate than those on the inside; but it was found not to work well, when the outside ones were abandoned.

The Norristown library is one of the old institutions of the town. In the years "long ago" the books were in a one-story frame building on Main street, just above where the Montgomery National Bank is. There the public got their reading. Mr. Slingluff and Mr. Boyer, the cashier and president of the bank, took a great deal of interest in this institution. The following is the list of subscribers that contributed to the erection of the building on DeKalb street. The subscription was started February 1, 1859: William H. Slingluff, B. E. Chain, D. H. Mulvany, H. Freedley, James Hooven, J. Greir Ralston, W. M. Jamison, Geo. S. McKnight, Thos. P. Knox, J. McDermott, J. M. Albertson, Judge Smyser, B. M. Boyer, Thos. Saurman, McKay & Stinson, D. Longaker, A.

Markley, F. Deer, Stephen Bawden, George Shannon, John Boyer, S. N. Rich, H. McMiller, C. J. Elliott, F. B. Poley, T. P. Bayly, Charles Earnest, C. H. Stinson, Wm. Schall, G. R. Fox, Geo. Steinmetz, James Boyd, Charles Christman, Nathaniel Jacoby, B. F. Hancock, Jacob Childs, John M. Stauffer, Gabriel Kohn, Christopher Heebner, Bean & Wentz, Samuel Brown, Jr., R. T. Stewart, D. H. Stein, G. W. Rogers, P. P. Dewees, Adam Slemmer, A. B. Longaker, Michael C. Boyer and Thos. P. Potts. It will be noticed how few of this long list of names are living. Something over two thousand dollars were raised at that time. I was the secretary of the board of trustees some two years prior to this movement, and have served in that capacity without intermission up to the present date.

For a long series of years we had a Montgomery County Bible Society. Mr. Zadok Thomas was for more than a quarter of a century the treasurer. Adam Slemmer was for a long period the president. After he had retired Dr. Ralston took charge as the president, and remained in that office until his death. Repeated efforts have been made to reorganize, but all their efforts have been short lived. During its existence the county was canvassed in order to supply every family with a Bible.

In May, 1859, Rev. Mr. Long came here with a large tent for the purpose of holding Evangelistic services. Some of the preachers were men of great pulpit power, and an intense excitement was the result of these meetings, and a large number of conversions followed, and additions were made to most of the churches as a result.

Norristown has been favored with distinguished citizens in the past years. Audubon, the great ornithologist, had a school and Dr. Isaac Huddleson was a pupil. The eloquent and peerless orator Rev. Samuel Aaron thrilled vast audiences, and left a very halo of precious influences behind him. General Hancock was always popular with "the boys," at all times a leader, a good scholar, and through all his life, when at home, he met his old friends and schoolmates with hearty

good cheer. Then there was Albanus S. Powell; at school a most remarkable memory; reading his lessons over he could repeat them word for word, and never down tail. There was Adam Slemmer, apparently slow in getting his lesson and understanding a question, but when he got the idea he had it in an iron box, for it was with him all his life. These three were all contrasts with each other in mental as well as physical appearance. They were all students at West Point. It is not necessary to refer to the great Hancock, the real hero of Gettysburg, and a marked and brilliant character in two wars. Powell left the West Point Academy, and after the war entered the ministry, and died a few years ago in either Kansas or Nebraska; Slemmer, the hero of Fort Pickens, the man who so quickly comprehended the situation as the tocsin of war was sounded, and did such reliable services at that time; Col. Edwin Schall, who fell at the battle of the Wilderness while leading his command into that terrific combat; General Hartranft, distinguished as executive of the state, whose deeds will live all along with the roll of the great of the nation. And our own Col. Theodore W. Bean, the organizer and the inspiration of our Montgomery County Historical Society, who, equally on the field of literature as well as on the field of battle, distinguished himself. Besides these, that long list of worthies on that "roll of honor" of names on the soldiers' monument in the public square—the brave men in the rank and file of that army that went from home to keep the stars and stripes over a free and united nation.

In the years gone by, at the time when Philip Gilinger was largely engaged in building, and when he did so much to improve Norristown in a style of dwellings far in advance of his time, it was found that an hundred houses had been built in one year, and it was thought the town was to be ruined by having so many empty houses. But as we look back for a few years, we suppose there has been five times that number built for years together. But an instance will illustrate what a great fall there was in real estate. A farm was bought and sold out in lots. A building association made a loan of *three*

*thousand* dollars on a piece of ground *before* the panic of 1857, but *after* the financial cyclone of that year had struck the town that same real estate got into the hands of the Sheriff and was sold for *three hundred* dollars. But the business enterprise of our borough could not be seriously impeded, and if we go back a decade of years we will see that we have more than recovered our old prestige.

As we think of the past and the men that figured, we will see the energy and push they had. There was Mr. McKay, whose remarkable memory of events was such that all questions of that kind, as to the exact date, being referred to him, his decision was conclusive and final. Mordecai R. Moore, George M. Potts, Daniel Mulvaney, the Pawling family, John Freedley, member of Congress from this district. At the bar were Charles W. Brooke, Philip Kendall, Francis Dimond, Dr. Duncan and Dr. Blackfan of those gone. We have Dr. Hiram Corson, and his brother William, while he lived, of the present times.

I have thus, members of the Montgomery County Historical Society, looked back over almost a half century of the time of Norristown, and as the events come before me, and for the time lived in the days of yore, I lay these recollections before you, not so much for any historical value they may have, for I may have made errors in dates and facts, as I have depended upon memory, and as an accountant might report in his statement, E. O. E. (errors and omissions excepted), so have I given you these incidents. If defective, still these pages may do to while away a half-hour with you.

But grand as has been the advance for the past generation or more, the sun of prosperity for Norristown is just rising, only clearly above the horizon for that which lies before the intelligent perseverance and energy of the years that are to come. Let us step up to the front, and when the advance guard make their forward march, may our place be near the "flashing of the guns."

## THE REDEMPTIONERS.

By Lewis R. Harley, Ph. D.

The subject of capital and labor is agitated as an important issue in our American system at the present day; and yet this strife between these two great forces of civilization is by no means confined to modern times, but it existed as well in the past ages of the world. It was only by slow processes that labor has been emancipated. Labor passed through the thralldom of the feudal system, and its claims for recognition were ignored in that period when the nations believed that gold was the chief source of the wealth of the world. Labor was also restricted by the power of the English guilds and the long apprentice systems. The governments of the old world in the era of discovery and exploration were filled with the paternal spirit. Man was cared for by the state, and in return he was to sacrifice all his service in behalf of the state. It was upon this principle that Raleigh's experiment in Virginia was made and that Locke's Grand Model was formed. Adam Smith had not yet written his "Wealth of Nations," in which the theory was first advanced that labor is the source of the wealth of the world. This work had a strong tendency to elevate labor and make it free.

Labor has also been reduced to the degradation of the slave system. Columbus and his followers introduced a system of slavery into America that swept away the entire Lucayan race—over fifty million souls. Slavery and the slave trade were established institutions along the Delaware long before Penn founded the colony of Pennsylvania. As the colony grew in numbers, strength and wealth, slavery remained one of its constituent elements, and the slave trade made a great part of the commerce.

There had always been a great amount of opposition to slavery in Pennsylvania. The well-known protest of the German Quakers of Germantown in 1688, showed a marked aversion to slavery. William Penn, the wise founder and law-giver of the state, was opposed to all systems of servitude. In the charter of laws agreed upon in England and confirmed April 25, 1682, by Penn, is the following clause: "That there shall be a register for all servants, where their names, time, wages and day of payment shall be registered." The laws of the fifth of May, 1682, state, "that all children within this province of the age of twelve years shall be taught some useful trade or skill, to the end that none may be idle, but the poor may work to live, and the rich, if they become poor, may not want. That servants be not kept longer than their time, and such as are careful be both justly and kindly used in their service, and put in fitting equipage at the end thereof, according to custom." One clause of the Great Law of Chester, December 7, 1682, states: "There shall be a registry for all servants, where their names, time, wages and days of freedom or payment shall be registered." In 1683, a law was passed to prevent the selling of servants, and regulating the service of those not indentured. Of this latter class, "each servant being seventeen years of age and upward, shall serve five years, and those under seventeen years shall serve till they come to the age of twenty-two, of which age each respective county court wherein they reside shall be their proper judges. And every master or mistress shall be bound to bring such servant or servants within three months time after their arrival before the said courts, to be adjudged as aforesaid, and shall then and there oblige themselves to pay unto every servant at the expiration of their time one new suit of apparel, ten bushels of wheat, or fourteen bushels of Indian corn, one axe, two hoes (one broad and one narrow), and a discharge from their service."

Labor in early Pennsylvania was not performed as it is now, by paid wage earners, but for the most part by persons in bondage. These included two classes—slaves and inden-

tured servants, or redemptioners. At the beginning of the American Revolution, slavery existed in some form in nearly every state of the Union. The economic conditions of the North prevented the growth of the slave system, and it early became unpopular and was abolished.

Many of the white inhabitants of Pennsylvania were also in a condition much like that of slavery, except in the length of its existence. Many laborers, artisans and tradesmen belonged to this class of indentured servants, or redemptioners. These laborers were recruited from two principal sources: first, those who fell into the condition on account of poverty and misfortune; and secondly, those immigrants who paid for their passage from Europe by agreeing to allow themselves to be sold by the shipmaster for a number of years after their arrival in this country.

As in olden times the debtor without means was sold for a certain time to cancel his debt, the criminal who could not pay his fine was sold for as long as was necessary to obtain its amount, and often the paupers from the work-houses were sold to pay their expenses. The Directors of the Poor in Philadelphia were empowered by law to bind out men and women from the poor-house for a term not exceeding three years to pay for their expense, and such persons were offered to purchasers through the columns of the newspaper.

The custom of selling for a period of service, criminals who had been fined and were unable to pay the amount, arose from the poor jail facilities of the country, and the reluctance of the early settlers to pay jail expenses. A man in Lancaster county stole £14, 7s.; he was whipped with twenty-one lashes and was then sold to a farmer for a term of six years for £16. The early records of Chester and Montgomery counties are full of instances of freemen being sold into servitude as punishment for offenses. A man was sold for a period of eight years for stealing fourteen deer skins. Another man was sold for three years for his jail fees. Prisoners often begged to be sold as servants rather than continue in jail.

Imprisonment for debt was a common occurrence in



ancient times in England and in the early history of our own country. A law passed in Pennsylvania in 1705 provided that if no estate sufficient be found, the debtor shall make satisfaction by servitude, not exceeding seven years, if a single person and under the age of fifty-three; or five years if a married man and under forty-six. The largest number of indentured servants were those called "redemptioners," because they redeemed the payment of their passage money by service to anyone to whom they were sold.

The time of redemptioners was usually sold at from £2 to £4 a year. Free labor at the time ranged from £10 to £20 per year. The discrepancy in the value of the service of the redemptioners is found from the fact that they had to be fed and clothed, and their labor was less efficient than that of free persons, and servants running away was a constant source of loss to owners. The colonial papers were filled with advertisements containing rewards for the capture and return of runaway servants. The law empowered the master to chastise the runaway servant, and the unpleasant position held by the redemptioners induced many of them to enter the army. Necessity for soldiers led the government to pass a law releasing all from further bondage who would enlist in the service of their country. Many availed themselves of this privilege and became distinguished for bravery in the early colonial wars.

The indentured servants were not always mere laborers. The advertised lists included men of almost all trades—millers, butchers, weavers, blacksmiths, brickmakers, carpenters, joiners, hatters, tailors, shoemakers, saddlers, tanners, and even barber surgeons. Governor Thomas, in 1741, reported to the English government that it was from this fact that Pennsylvania was enabled to conduct many species of manufacture at a cheap rate, and the mother country feared that it would interfere with English trade.

The laws affecting indentured servants differed entirely from the rude slave code. The slave code held the negroes in subjection by dread and terror, but as the redemptioners

lived in the hope of an early emancipation the laws had no such terrors over them. It required the presence of a Justice of the Peace to assign a redemptioner from one master to another. Every servant who had served his master faithfully for a period of four years should be given at the expiration of the time two full suits of clothes, one of which should be new, and, in addition, a set of the most necessary implements of labor. The courts were frequently required to enforce these claims.

The largest element of white bondage, like negro slavery, came to Pennsylvania from abroad. Emigrant vessels were constantly arriving with bodies of redemptioners. Immigration to Pennsylvania during colonial times was of much larger proportions than that coming to any other colony. Eight vessels filled with immigrants arrived from Ireland in one week, and twenty-five vessels arrived from Germany in three months. Although Pennsylvania was one of the last colonies to be founded, its rapid growth in population was a matter of astonishment. Most of the bound servants from British ports were Irish, although Scotch, Welsh and English were also represented.

Vessels with redemptioners also came from Dublin, Belfast and other seaports of Ireland. The vessels from Rotterdam and other Dutch ports, brought no Hollanders generally, but Germans from the south of Germany. Many of the Philadelphia papers contained typical advertisements, for instance, the following: "Just arrived in the ship Sally from Amsterdam, a number of German men, women and children redemptioners. Their times will be disposed of on reasonable terms by the Captain on board, lying near Race Street Wharf."

There were several reasons why Germany and Ireland should be the two chief sources from which these servants should be drawn. In Ireland the economic and religious conditions in the eighteenth century were the saddest in all the history of that country.

In Germany, a long series of religious wars had left the population in a distressed condition, and had not kindled in their hearts any love of country.

The Thirty Years' War had left the common people of Germany in a wretched condition. The smoldering religious hatred of half a century had been kindled into a fiercer flame, and to this day the effects of the war upon Germany are not effaced. Carlyle writes: "The whole land had been tortured, torn to pieces, wreck and brayed as in a mortar." These conditions were the cause of a great amount of emigration, but the stream was increased by the policy of our government here to obtain colonists. William Penn was widely known in Holland and Germany. His mother was of Holland-Dutch ancestry, and Penn had visited these countries on missionary tours. A great many of his tracts were printed in the Dutch and German languages and scattered through Holland and Germany.

A knowledge of Penn's colony was soon spread through Germany and produced a great impression. The English government also invited sufferers from the Palatinate to take up lands in America.

In 1738, General Waldo wanted settlers for his grant in Maine, and he visited Germany and spread circulars through the country filled with glowing descriptions of the new country. He appointed an agent named Speyer in the Palatinate, who flooded the region with information concerning America. Massachusetts also made attempts to induce German Protestants to settle in Maine as a means of defense against the Canadians in time of war. A central office was created at Frankfort and the usual system of issuing pamphlets was pursued. John Dick, of Rotterdam, also had an agency to induce settlers to take up lands in Nova Scotia. A jealousy sprang up between Maine and Nova Scotia, and the tide of German immigration was thus diverted south to Pennsylvania.

The steady stream of immigration led sea captains to abuse their privileges, and for the love of gain inflicted some of the severest cruelties upon the passengers. It was soon found that the business of carrying passengers was more profitable than the freight traffic, and the inmates of the vessels were lodged together like herring. The ships were so crowded

that many were kept on deck, and as they often sailed southward into a hotter climate, thousands became sick and died. It is recorded that in one year alone no less than two thousand souls were buried in the seas and at Philadelphia. The most barbarous of these sea captains was John Steadman, who had bought a license from the magistrate of Rotterdam that no captain or merchant could load any passengers so long as he had not two thousand loaded on his vessels. By the terms of this license Steadman enjoyed a monopoly of the traffic for a number of years. The immigrants suffered untold hardships, not only on the seas, but the avaricious Steadman increased their burdens by heaping upon them many grievances after they landed at our ports. The agreement made in Holland was to carry the passengers for seven pistoles and a half. Another class of immigrants, too poor to pay their passage to America, signed a contract with Steadman by which they could be sold into bondage for a term of years to pay their passage. These were the regular redemptioners. When these wanderers reached Philadelphia, they were forced to pay whatever their cruel masters demanded. Many of them had paid their passage before leaving Rotterdam, but Steadman would not credit it, and a sum of money was again exacted from them on reaching this country. The thousands who died on the way made it all the more profitable for Steadman, for they had been bound together by a contract that the living should pay for the passage of the dead, and often when they had paid their own fare, they were sold for the fare of some friend or foe. The baggage of the redemptioners was all left behind to be brought over on freight vessels; but when their effects reached here, it was found to be a frequent occurrence that their chests and trunks were broken open and nearly all their valuables stolen. This only tended to increase the sufferings of the redemptioners, and rendered thousands penniless.

The greatest influence on the stream of redemptioners was the system of agents, importers and brokers who made their living out of the trade in bound servants. Those agencies existed both in Philadelphia and in European cities.

Other dealers called "Newlanders," or "soul drivers," went to Germany and Ireland and pictured America as a land flowing with milk and honey, thus inducing many to come to America. The redemptioners were sold in Philadelphia, and often were peddled through the surrounding country. In Rotterdam, some of the wealthiest citizens were engaged in this Pennsylvania trade, and so lucrative was the trade that all the vessels were engaged in it.

A great jealousy grew up in this trade between Amsterdam and Rotterdam, and runners were engaged to watch the arrival of emigrants, and to try to persuade them to embark in their vessels. The runners obtained a fee for each redemptioner they secured. The rivalry became so great that they watched all the routes to the sea coast, and dealers carried on a house-to-house solicitation through Germany. Great evils resulted from this, and many people were over-persuaded to leave their homes.

Rev. Henry Melchoir Muhlenberg, pastor of the Trappe Lutheran Church, wrote that during the autumn of 1749 twenty-five ships brought 7049 redemptioners alive to Philadelphia, besides several thousand that perished on the way from want of air and nourishment.

The extreme sufferings of the redemptioners led Christopher Sauer, the Germantown printer, to address a letter to the Governor of Pennsylvania, March 15, 1755, describing their pitiable condition, as well as the cruelties of Steadman. Sauer felt responsible in a certain degree for the sufferings of the redemptioners, as it was through his influence that many of them came to America. He petitioned the Legislature, and a law was passed for their relief, but it was never executed. Sauer also wrote a letter to the magistrate of Rotterdam, and the monopoly was taken from Steadman. A man named Shoffert, an old sea captain, was appointed overseer of the vessels that came with passengers, but he was bribed to conceal the fact that sometimes the immigrants had scarcely twelve inches space between them, and often no bread and water. After his death our Assembly elected a Mr. Trotter overseer,

but he also allowed every vessel to slip through without enforcing the law. The people of Philadelphia and Germantown then drew up a petition asking the Assembly to appoint Thomas Lay overseer. He was an English merchant living in Philadelphia, and everybody had confidence in him that he would accept no bribes. The petitions of the people were all in vain, and the redemptioners obtained no relief until 1764, when the German Society, of Philadelphia, was organized to establish means of relief for them.

Some of the oldest inhabitants of Montgomery and Bucks counties say that they have recollections of redemptioners who had been sold in their midst and afterwards became honorable citizens. Jacob Price, an extensive farmer, living near Indian creek, Montgomery county, bought a very large, stalwart man, named John Kroner, at four years' service for \$80. He was a good, faithful man, and when free, married a very respectable girl in that neighborhood. He afterwards settled in Ohio, where he bought a farm and became independent. Andre Young, from Amsterdam, Holland, was bought by Christian Landis, of Grater's Ford. Young's mother was a widow, and he was a street boy. He would not submit to any restraint from his mother, and he ran off without her consent when only sixteen years old. He had to serve six years in payment of his passage to this country. He married a very respectable woman and reared a fine family. One of his sons is yet living within five miles of Harleysville.

Cornelius Shepherd, the ancestor of Robert A. Shepherd, editor of the *Lansdale (Pa.) Republican*, came to America as a redemptioner in 1752, accompanied by a brother and two sisters. Cornelius and the younger sister were sold to pay for the passage of all. He was sold to a farmer in Plumstead township, Bucks county. He married Phoebe Rice, a Quaker lady, and bought land in Buckingham township, Bucks county.

George Homan, wife and son, were bought by a Mr. Fretz, of Bedminster, Bucks county. Homan was an educated genius, a poet and an ornamental penman. He soon gained many friends, who, after a while, advanced him the money to

obtain his freedom. He became a teacher and author, and nobly repaid his benefactors. Abraham H. Cassel, the historian and antiquarian, of Indian creek, says that he remembers seeing Homan on one occasion, and that he bought a small pamphlet of poems from him.

Philip Hoffecker was a redemptioner. He was sold to a farmer in North Coventry, Chester county, and remained in bondage about five years to pay for his passage. A large number of his descendants are found to this day in Chester and Montgomery counties, and they are noted for their great strength of character and sterling integrity. The most prominent member of this family is R. F. Hoffecker, superintendent of the public schools of this county.

In Chester county the story is told of one bright-witted redemptioner, an Irishman, who, being the last of the drove, arose very early and sold his master to the landlord, pocketed the money and walked off, remarking as he left that the prisoner was a good fellow, only a little addicted to lying; sometimes he even had a presumption to try to pass himself off for his master.

The redemption system was demoralizing to Germany and America alike, and the best men in both countries vigorously opposed it. After great opposition the stream of redemptioners into our state ceased early in this century. One of the latest deeds for a redemptioner is now in the possession of Dr. George G. Groff, of Bucknell University. It is dated August 29, 1817.

## WOMEN OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY IN WAR TIME.

By Mrs. Anna M. Holstein.

When the call was made for troops during our great civil war in 1861, and the response rang out, "We are coming, Father Abraham, four hundred thousand strong," it nerved the loyal women of the land to bravely bear the sad parting with their best and dearest, their living treasures, not daring to think of probable suffering and aching hearts for the uncertain future. The present must be filled with activity, work, untiring work, though it might not be, as was afterwards learned, of the most judicious kind; still, it was all that was then known as to what was required.

The excitement during the organization and leaving of the Fourth Regiment, Pennsylvania Volunteers, was unprecedented in town and country. It was the first that our people knew of actual preparations for war, and naturally stirred the hearts of thousands as nothing in their lives had ever done before.

As the soldiers went out from among us there came the yearning wish to lessen somewhat the hardships of their lonely camp life, especially when sick in hospital or wounded.

What each family first began to do for their relatives and friends soon became general, and thus, by uniting together, "soldiers' aid societies" were formed. With all faithful women of the land we worked zealously in their behalf; worked because there was an irresistible impulse to do, to act; anything but idleness, when our armies were preparing for the combat, and we knew not who should be the first to fall, who be called widow, or who fatherless.

On the nineteenth of April, 1861, a meeting was held in Airy Street Hall, Norristown, Mrs. R. T. Stewart presiding, Mrs. Charles P. Harry, secretary; Mrs. Mary Roberts, Mrs. G. W.



Rogers and many others present. They "resolved to furnish aid to those who volunteer in service of their country." The same day a meeting was held in the library room of Stewart Fund Hall, Upper Merion, near King of-Prussia. Mrs. Jonathan Roberts, president; Mrs. William H. Holstein, vice president; Mrs. Sarah H. Tyson, secretary. A large number of earnest women were in attendance. They "resolved that the women of Upper Merion will devote their utmost energies to aid and encourage the brave men who have gone to meet a treacherous and rebellious foe; that no new bonnets should be procured or dresses purchased while the war continued, excepting calico; while the money these articles would cost should be used in our Army Aid Society." "Resolved, That the Union colors, emblematic of our national flag, should be worn by us until peace was re-established." A tiny silk flag was placed upon the left shoulder, or arranged among loops of ribbon in front of hat or bonnet.

The one which I wore continuously throughout the war is still preserved among war relics in our home. As far as I know among those with whom I was most intimately associated the members of Upper Merion Army Aid continued true to their pledge. A large sum of money was contributed by those present at this meeting, but the amount is not stated in my notes. The next day, the afternoon of the twentieth of April, 1861, Mrs. Jonathan Roberts and Mrs. Isaac W. Holstein collected in Upper Merion township five hundred and thirty-five dollars for hospital service.

During the entire war this township sent regular supplies of hospital clothing and other needful articles, with food and delicacies for sick and wounded soldiers.

All kinds of sewing that could be utilized in hospitals, the preparation of bandages, lint, etc., was done by the ladies in the old school house. Beside the hospital garments, of which quantities were always on hand, they made and quilted a number of comforts. When the weather became cold these meetings were held at the homes of the members, where they remained for tea. Of this number were Mrs. H. M. Lutz, Mrs.

Jonathan Roberts, Mrs. Samuel Tyson, Mrs. Wm. B. Roberts, Mrs. Wm. Carver, Mrs. Wm. H. Holstein, Mrs. Isaac W. Holstein, and perhaps others whose names may have been unintentionally omitted from meagre notes of that time.

In Norristown, Mrs. Dr. Louis W. Read and Mrs. H. C. Hill were mainly instrumental in raising funds for the purchase of flags, which were presented to the Fourth Pennsylvania Volunteers before leaving Harrisburg. Norriton township united with Norristown Army Aid, and usually sent their supplies through this channel occasionally to Philadelphia. Mrs. Theodore W. Bean and Mrs. Edwin Conrad were the principal collectors in this district.

The Norristown Army Aid was organized May 27, 1861. The first president, Mrs. Jesse Bean; Secretary, Mrs. Charles P. Harry; Mrs. A. R. Cox, Mrs. Daniel Brower, Mrs. Harvey Shaw, Mrs. Lloyd Jones, and many others were active in this patriotic work.

Gwynedd Ladies' Aid commenced work August 21, 1862. Anna M. Jenkins, president; Sallie M. Meredith, secretary. Their contributions in money amounted to two hundred and seventy dollars. Valuable articles for hospital use, clothing and delicacies were constantly sent to different points until the war ended.

Plymouth Army Aid was active in preparing and forwarding supplies to hospitals and Sanitary Commission. Mrs. Martha Maulsby Corson, president; Miss Mitchell and Miss Davis, secretaries; Mrs. Emily Corson, Miss Sallie Styer, Miss Mary L. Streeper, with many whose names were not sent me, were earnest workers for sick and wounded.

Conshohocken Army Aid was organized November 12, 1861, at the residence of Mrs. Benjamin Harry, in the borough of Conshohocken, "for the purpose of forming a committee to work for the aid and comfort of our volunteers now engaged in the noble and glorious cause of protecting our country's freedom." Mrs. Benjamin Harry was elected directress of this committee, Mrs. Walter Cresson, treasurer; Mrs. Alan Wood, Jr., secretary; Mrs. Edwin Jefferis and Mrs. D. L. Wood,

purchasing committee; Mrs. Samuel Pugh and Mrs. L. A. Lukens, committee to cut out garments. Mrs. William Davis, Mrs. Dr. J. K. Reid, Miss Mary Fulton and Mrs. Benjamin Harry were the committee to receive and collect contributions.

The organization was to be known as the "Conshohocken Ladies' Aid Committee"; the admission fee one dollar; weekly dues, five cents. Dr. Boardman's Church, in Philadelphia, was made a place of deposit for hospital stores. From there boxes and barrels were forwarded to field and other hospitals wherever the need was greatest. Conshohocken contributed largely to this point of supply; also, to the Cooper Shop Refreshment Saloon and hospitals in and around Philadelphia.

Bridgeport Army Aid did good service in making hospital clothing and sending to the front quantities of food and delicacies for sick and wounded soldiers. Mrs. Benjamin B. Hughes, Mrs. Smith, Mrs. Dr. Geo. W. Holstein, Mrs. Wm. Keiger, Mrs. G. W. Keiger, Mrs. Shainline, Mrs. Susan Rambo, Mrs. Emily Rambo, with many more were active in the good work.

All the soldiers who left this vicinity for the war took the cars in Bridgeport at the crossing of DeKalb street and the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad.

The hospital stores collected in Bridgeport and vicinity were all packed in Charles E. Holstein's drug store by Mr. William Keiger. Of the large number which passed through our hands in field hospitals all came safely and in good condition.

In Pottstown, Mrs. J. Dutton Steele, Mrs. Neide, with numerous others, were active workers in this very valuable Aid Society. Miss Sophia Richards (now Mrs. Lancaster, of Philadelphia) was their secretary. Many of their excellent boxes of supplies came to me in different hospitals for distribution.

In May, 1861, General Scott directed a certain number of regiments to be supplied with havelocks. The order was received in Norristown May 17th. I happened to be there at

the time, and that no delay might occur, purchased the material for the Upper Merion Army Aid, and then went directly home, sending word in every direction among friends and neighbors that their help was required. Fifty-three persons assembled at our house at an hour's notice, worked all the afternoon and remained to tea. Mrs. Ellen Rutter, of Swedeland, brought her sewing machine and used it steadily. At that date very few were in use. They were not found in every home as at present. Two hundred and eighty caps were finished by the party of ladies and marked with durable ink, with name and number of regiment. But they proved to be a useless article. The soldiers complained that they heated the head and made them a plain target for the enemy's bullets.

There were many women not connected with army aid societies who gave valuable, material aid to the cause. Mrs. Elfreth, of Norristown, was of this number.

Mrs. Susan Whittall, of Whitemarsh, then resided in Philadelphia. She was greatly interested in hospitals in and around this city, and, in 1863, spent one month among the hospitals about Falmouth, Virginia. I have no report from army aid societies in Lower Merion, or of work accomplished in that district, but know there were as earnest workers there as in other localities.

In 1863, a flag twenty-five feet in length was purchased by citizens of Montgomery county, principally by residents of Norristown, Bridgeport and Upper Merion, for the battle-field of Gettysburg, as an evidence of our sympathy and esteem for the brave soldiers who, upon this noted field, "fought and won this great battle for our liberties."

The suggestion that a flag should be procured for this purpose came from citizens of the county who were occupied in the general hospital, Gettysburg, waiting upon the wounded. Mrs. Charles P. Harry and Mrs. Isaac W. Holstein were the committee to whose care it was entrusted to convey it to the general hospital, Gettysburg. Upon its arrival the flag was carried through all the streets of the hospital that the wounded

men might have the pleasure of seeing it. Everywhere it was greeted with cheers. It was then taken to Round Top. All who could leave the hospital, officers, ladies and soldiers, joined the procession. A large concourse of persons gathered upon Round Top, manifesting by their presence the pleasure they felt in the event. Appropriate and eloquent addresses were delivered by Hon. David Wills, of Gettysburg; J. F. Seymour, of New York; and Surgeon H. C. May, of the 145th New York State Volunteers. The flagstaff was cut, prepared and erected by soldiers from Camp Letterman, general hospital. The flag floated over Round Top, and could be seen a great distance. It remained from the time of its erection until the storms of winter endangered its preservation, when it was taken down and cared for by Hon. David Wills, in whose keeping it remained until deposited in the flag room at the state capitol, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

It soon became evident that the rebellion could not be subdued in three months, and that all the preparations required during the first outbreak must be continued. In every part of the country women engaged with eagerness in the preparation of collecting and forwarding of hospital supplies. Flannel underclothing seemed to be the first thought of all. This was furnished without stint. Scrapping lint gave employment alike to old and young, even little children doing their share. Old linen that had been carefully hoarded among treasures too sacred to be used, was now brought to light and freely offered for our wounded soldiers. Old muslin was collected; bandages of all widths were made and rolled, ready for use; bed quilts, comforts, pads in endless variety, arm slings, arm rests, slippers, pillows, in which no little ingenuity was shown as to the material which filled them; sheets, pillow cases, dressing gowns, towels, handkerchiefs, scrap books, comfort bags, etc., etc.; dried, canned and preserved fruits, jellies, pickles, syrups, home-made wines, bread, biscuits, etc. There seemed no limit to the stores of nice things forwarded to the hospitals. The very best of everything that could be made was sent from the homes of the land.

Stockings and mittens were knitted by the thousand pairs. All ages took up the glistening steel. No idle moments could be spent by the women, whether entertaining a friend, waiting in the depot or riding in cars, the busy fingers were ever at work and the active brain devising what more could be done to increase the comforts of the absent soldier. These were among the things the women of this county did during the war. The regiments were followed to camp, field and hospital, not only by good wishes, never-ceasing acts of kindness, loving care and thoughtfulness, but the prayers of this great army of women ascended continually, like incense, to Him in whose hands are "the issues of life and death."

"The women wait, and watch and pray,  
With thrilling pulse, from day to day."

After the battle of Bull Run, when the wounded were hurriedly cared for, and imperfect arrangements for their comfort made, Mrs. Jonathan Roberts, of Upper Merion, was urgent in her appeals for ladies to go as nurses. Yielding to her solicitations, Mrs. Rachel Evans, of Bridgeport, and her sister, Miss Lizzie Brower, of Norristown, went to Alexandria, Va., where a week was spent among the wounded. Even in this short experience something was learned of hospital needs and more efficient work for our army aid societies.

So days, weeks and months sped on, and all the while the lowering clouds of war hung darkly o'er the land, with apparently no variation in the cry sounding through the nation, "come and help us." At length the battle of Antietam came so startlingly near us, that it brought before us the horrors and sufferings of war as we had never previously felt them. Again the appeal was made for nurses, and again Mrs. Evans offered her services; she was the directing power among the six who went to Antietam. Mrs. Rachel P. Evans, of Bridgeport, Mrs. Anna Carver, of Upper Merion, a lady well known for her great kindness and benevolence; Mrs. Isaac W. Holstein, Miss Sallie H. Roberts, now Mrs. William Wills; Miss Lizzie Brower, of Norristown, and Miss Sarah Priest, of Bridge-

port, comprised the party. They remained ten days, and their labors among the wounded were appreciated and valued by surgeons and soldiers. Though strongly urged to make one of this number, I declined at that time; the idea of seeing and nursing wounded men was one from which I shrank instinctively, but when my husband returned soon after with the sad story that soldiers were actually dying for want of proper food and comforts of the plainest kind, lying in barns, sheds, or any kind of wretched shelter, I hesitated no longer, but with others went earnestly to work in procuring additional supplies of food, clothing, medicine, etc.

While the company of six ladies were still there, I accompanied Mr. Holstein to Antietam. We had in our charge a large quantity of excellent supplies for sick and wounded, and had the satisfaction of getting them through promptly; they came most opportunely and were invaluable. Our stay at this time was short, as we returned home with the party of six, and went directly to Philadelphia, where, among friends and relatives, a supply of medical stores and hospital appliances, made out from a surgeon's list, was collected in three days. These articles were valued at one thousand dollars; the estimate was made by the druggist who packed them. A large quantity of delicacies and clothing were contributed in Philadelphia, and again in our own neighborhood. Mrs. Evans accompanied Mr. Holstein and myself upon this trip, but in ten days she returned home seriously ill with camp fever; her sister, Miss Lizzie Brower, then took her place. From this date the home work in army aid societies was left to other hands. The writer found *her* place to be in field hospitals, to care for sick and wounded as sorrowing wives and mothers at home would so gladly have done, were it in their power. This mission of mercy and patriotism ended for her the third of July, 1865.

Miss Sarah Priest was ten months in hospitals; Miss Lizzie Brower, eighteen months; they were reliable, valuable, efficient women. Mrs. Anna Carver and Miss Emily T. Amies (now Mrs. Abram Walker, of Philadelphia) afterwards spent a

few weeks in hospitals at Fortress Monroe. Mrs. Jonathan Roberts, Mrs. Edwin Moore, and others, remained a few days at a time among the hospitals when bringing boxes of supplies for them.

July 9, 1864, Mrs. Rachel P. Evans came to City Point, Virginia, bringing with her supplies of delicacies, etc., sent from Norristown and Bridgeport. The boxes contained fourteen hundred pounds of nice biscuits, a quantity of fresh home-made bread, apple butter, canned fruit, and such other articles as soldiers, sick and wounded, enjoy. There was such an abundant supply that every wounded man in one section of the hospital was given a biscuit with apple butter or other fruit, where prudent to do so.

Whitpain Ladies' Aid Society was organized at the house of Jesse B. Fisher, Centre Square, November 3, 1863, for the aid and comfort of sick and wounded soldiers on the battle field, in hospitals, or refreshment saloons in Philadelphia. They received, from various sources, seven hundred and fifty-two dollars; no account was ever kept of donations of eatables, and no estimate made of the value of other goods received. This aid society is the only one in the county, that I know of, whose proceedings have been preserved in book form; the last supplies they forwarded were to U. S. Sanitary Commission, 19th of July, 1865.

A society, known as the Woman's Loyal League, had its place of meeting in Norristown. Mrs. Jonathan Roberts, of Upper Merion, President; Mrs. Edward Conrad, Secretary. It was not intended for hospital work, though they raised money by lectures, which was given to the army aid societies. Its object seemed to be to keep up the interest of the women in patriotic movements. I have no date of its formation or continuance.

On the 28th of July, 1863, Mrs. Roberts wrote an article which appeared in the *Norristown Herald*, styled "A Tribute of Highest Esteem" to the Army of the Potomac.

Montgomery county sent many soldiers to the war whose memory is treasured and record honored wherever loyal citi-



zens are found. Of this number are Major General Winfield Scott Hancock, Major General John F. Hartranft, Major General Samuel K. Zook, Brigadier General Adam J. Slemmer, besides numerous other officers of note, and privates in the ranks. Of the distinguished Surgeons, we find still resident in Norristown Dr. Louis W. Read and Ellwood M. Corson; perhaps others, whose names I have lost.

I have spoken of what the women of Montgomery county *did*, during our great Civil War, in the way of hospital work and supplies. But what of their costliest offering, the lives that were given, homes that were made desolate, hopes blasted, health destroyed, and agonies endured in southern prisons, that the nation might be saved? Of the many whose names are familiar to me, I can but touch upon a few. Mrs. Hannah Shultz, of Norristown, is one from whose home the "light has gone out." She gave her *all*—her two brave boys to the war. Henry met a soldier's death on the field of Antietam, and now rests with his comrades of that fearful fight in the soldier's cemetery upon the hill. William Corson Shultz was wounded in the second day's fight at Gettysburg, and lived until the last of September, calmly bearing all these weeks untold agony from a wound which he knew must certainly result in death. His one anxious thought, constantly expressed, was, "Mother, do not grieve; bury me with my comrades on the field." At sunrise, one bright autumn morning, his soul went up to God. The casket which had held it we laid to rest among the nation's honored dead in Gettysburg cemetery.

Captain George W. Bisbing was another of the costly sacrifices. He was an only child, and in his death two homes were made desolate. Connected with this gallant officer's death is an incident so singular that it is worthy of record. Though familiar as it is to all his family, yet it may not be so to all who hear me at this time. On the fifth of June, 1864, while we were at White House, Virginia, Wm. Percival Schall came, bringing the body of his brother, Colonel Edwin Schall, to be embalmed. He fell at Cold Harbor on the third of June, shot through the neck. The Assistant Secretary of

War was fortunately that day at the White House. Through our intercession with this officer, he gave a permit for the young soldier to accompany the body of his brother, the colonel, to Norristown.

At this time Captain Bisbing was in the officers' hospital, Georgetown, D. C., his wife sitting by his bedside watching the passing away of a precious life now near its close. As the things of earth receded and another world dawned upon his gaze the lamp of life flickered and flashed in this its closing scene. Suddenly rousing up, his voice, which had previously been faint and feeble, rang out in a clear, loud voice, "Lieutenant, Lieutenant!" A wounded lieutenant lying near him answered, "What is it, captain?" He replied, "I'm not calling you, it is Lieutenant Colonel Schall. I saw him fall, and thought the way he was lying perhaps he was dead." His wife soothed him, saying "the colonel was all right," and he sank back exhausted on his pillow. But in a few moments he called again in the same eager tone, "Lieutenant, Lieutenant," repeating the same words that he "had seen him fall, and thought the way he was lying, perhaps he was dead." Again he was soothed to quietness. And now fully conscious that death was near, the brave soldier, in a few earnest, never-to-be forgotten words, sent home the message that he "gave his life freely for his country." Then commending his soul to God, and committing wife and children to the same loving care, in two hours peacefully passed to that land "where there is no more sorrow or sickness or pain."

When Mrs. Bisbing returned with her husband's body to their home she then first learned that the colonel had fallen as the captain described two days previously.

His body also was brought home for burial and interred in Montgomery Cemetery the day preceding captain Bisbing's funeral, which was in the cemetery of Christ (Swedes') Church, Upper Merion.

In Cold Point Cemetery, a few miles from Norristown, sleeps all that is mortal of Phillip Hattel, of the 51st Pennsylvania Volunteers. Starved to death at Andersonville. One

of the very worst cases that I ever knew among many thousand returned prisoners at Annapolis, to which fact the surgeon in charge of St. John's College certified in a card upon the back of his photograph.

This list might be greatly lengthened, of the many precious lives lost to friends and home, but time will not permit.

The little fragmentary histories of "what the women did in war time," in every township and county, should be collected without delay, now while many who took part in the work can recall all that was done. There will come a time when such records will be invaluable. What would we not give for the story of woman's work through the period of the Revolutionary war. And yet, what meagre accounts have come down to us. In a township adjacent to Norristown a woman resided during the war into whose hands great wealth had fallen. As her dividends became due and were paid in gold, the sum, whatever it might be, was immediately expended for comforts and delicacies for sick and wounded soldiers, or in the purchase of red flannel by the bale, which she had made up at her own expense. If there were wives or mothers of soldiers in her vicinity who desired to do the work, they had the first choice of it. Then needy women of the neighborhood were kept employed, and all well paid.

Whatever she found was most urgently needed at "the front" she bought and sent directly on to the persons whom she knew or to the Sanitary Commission for distribution. One of her purchases was forty saddles, with bridles and equipments, for a cavalry company. This thoughtful disbursement of a large income was continued throughout the war. In the dearth of laborers for the harvest she went into the fields and worked in the hay and among the grain until all was gathered into the barns; assisted in husking the corn and bringing in the potato crop. All labor was honorable in her sight, because it was for love of country; that men might take a soldier's place in the army while she worked.

The wonderful narratives of self-sacrifice and devotion to principle of the women who nobly did their part in the great

civil war, have all yet to be written. Not until this generation sleeps beneath the clods of the valley, and the children of to-day, to whose sight distance will lend "enchantment to the view," will begin to inquire if these tales that *seem* so like romance are true. Then will every little circumstance be eagerly sought for. Forgotten letters and papers will be brought to light and closely read. Events that were to the participants as only every day duties will then appear—a glorified vision of saintly wife or mother, in whose ministry of mercy was included a great nation's army fighting to preserve the nation's life.

## SKETCH OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY, PA.

By Rev. Matthias Sheeleigh, D. D.

Montgomery county may well claim intelligent consideration. It is an important subdivision of a state to which the early designation of the "Keystone State" was, and continues to be, highly fitting, for good reasons beyond the fact of its central geographical position among the original thirteen.

The name Montgomery was applied to this county in honor of the patriotic General Richard Montgomery, who fell at the assaulting of Quebec, on the night of December 31, 1775. The county was formed by an act of the Colonial Legislature, September 10, 1784, 102 years after William Penn's arrival. It was cut off the old county of Philadelphia, which was one of the three original counties of Penn's province. Chronologically it became the fifteenth county of the state.

Montgomery is one of the sixty-six counties into which the state is now divided. Its place is near the southeastern corner of the state. It lies just above the fortieth parallel of north latitude, and the line of seventy-five degrees of longitude west of Greenwich strikes through the centre of the county, as also does the line of two degrees east of Washington. The form of this division of the state is that of a somewhat irregular and indented parallelogram, extending lengthwise from southeast to northwest. Its measurement is thirty miles long and fifteen miles wide.

The *Gazetteer*, of Dr. Thomas, states briefly thus, by way of general description: "The surface is diversified with beautiful undulations of hills and valleys. The soil is productive and highly improved."

The rock and mineral productions of the county are various and valuable. There are granite, serpentine, different kinds of sand stone, marble, etc. A range of lime stone runs

east and west through southern townships, from points in which lime has been produced for about 200 years. Iron ore has also been extensively mined and prepared for generations past. Copper has been mined to some extent, and even silver and gold have been found, but not thus far in quantities sufficient to encourage their extraction.

The county is divided into 32 townships. It as yet contains no town with a city charter, although Norristown, the county seat, together with adjacent bodies of population, has been moving toward that dignity. There are fifteen boroughs within the county limits, ranging in population (in the year 1890) from Norristown with 19,761, down to 237 in the case of Green Lane. There are 128 unincorporated villages or hamlets. The county is accommodated with 140 post offices, 19 national banks, 30 newspapers, 4 being in the German language. In the townships there are 281 public schools, and in the boroughs 172, making in all 453. In addition to these are about a dozen higher seminaries, five of which possess college charters, namely, Ursinus, Haverford, Villa Nova, Bryn Mawr and Ogontz, the last two being for young ladies.

There are in the county probably about 150 churches or religious organizations. They are connected with at least a dozen denominations.

According to estimate, the county has an extent of 473 square miles; and, as the area of the state is about 45,000 square miles, the county embraces nearly the  $\frac{1}{100}$  part of the surface of the state. The census of 1890 reports for it a population of 123,290, being a fraction below the  $\frac{1}{100}$  part of the inhabitants of the state, given as 5,258,014.

The largest streams are the Schuylkill river on the west side, for about 25 miles; the Perkiomen creek, running through the centre, mainly in a westerly direction, with its numerous branches draining half the area of the county; the Wissahickon creek in the southern part, emptying into the Schuylkill at Philadelphia, and furnishing some of the most picturesque scenery lying within any city; Neshaminy creek, branches of which rise in the eastern part of the county. Properly speak-

ing, there are no mountains within this county's limits, although there are heights of considerable elevation. Among these are the hills at Valley Forge, those on the Perkiomen, the Edge Hill range, and others.

Thomas Burrowes, writing half a century ago, made the observation, "Since the separate organization of Montgomery, in 1784, its career has been marked by a quiet but regular succession of prosperity." This language may now be extended to the years that have followed.

Before any Europeans had set foot on the territory of this county, these lands were claimed, in common with the surrounding region, by the Delaware 'Indians, bearing the tribal designation of Lenni-Lenapes, and were occupied by them, according to the manner of occupying on the part of the roaming aborigines of this part of the continent.

The first white people, or Europeans, settling within the borders of the area now included in this county, appear to have been some of the people of Sweden, who came over in 1638 and soon thereafter, and settled along the Delaware from Cape Henlopen, mostly along the west shore of the river, up past the sites of New Castle, Wilmington and Philadelphia. Following up the waters of the Schuylkill, they entered upon the soil now embraced in Montgomery. On referring to Mr. Buck's history of the county, this sentence will be read: "The credit is due to the Swedes of having made the first permanent settlements in Pennsylvania." I add to this that traces of the Swedes remain within the county in some family and local names, as also in a few customs.

English and Welsh families, mostly Quakers, and many of the latter Baptists, pressed out beyond the present limits of Philadelphia within two or three years after Penn's arrival, making their homes in several of the more southerly townships included now in Montgomery. The Welsh people settled a large space south of the middle of the present county. They extended westward in a belt of several miles in width, and running some twenty-five miles beyond the Schuylkill through Chester county, where they largely occupied four

townships. In both these counties their descendants and early homes may still be pointed out through their family names, designations of townships, etc. In this county we have their geographical marks in the two Gwynedd townships and the Merions, the borough of North Wales, Penllyn village, the Welsh road, etc., while in Chester county are the township names of Tredyffrin, Uwchlan, East and West Nantmeal, as also the Welsh mountain.

In less than seven years after the landing of Penn, Germans pressed out from Germantown, settling in Springfield and Whitemarsh townships, north of Chestnut Hill, and now in this county. Concerning the early period of the settling of Germans on the territory of Montgomery, Robert Sears writes thus in his "Pictorial History of the United States": "A few Germans, having early come over from Europe to join the colonists of William Penn, and settled in Germantown, near Philadelphia, sent back to their countrymen such favorable accounts that they had numerous followers, especially from the Palatinate, between 1700 and 1730. They occupied the territory about the head waters of the Perkiomen creek, and Lutheran and German Reformed churches were afterward founded."

To this it may be added that the early stream of German immigration continued to flow hither and into other parts of the state, for almost a half century beyond the date just given, until interrupted by the Revolutionary War. Besides the Lutherans and Reformed being represented, there came also Mennonites, Dunkards, Schwenkfelders, and others. The Germans spread themselves over more than the northern half of this county. The industry and patient toil of these people in a few years specially marked all that region with fertile farms and plentiful homes. Even as early as 1734, writes Prof. J. K. Harley, "considerably over one-half of the population of the county were Germans."

In Sherman Day's volume, "Historical Collections of the State of Pennsylvania," we read: "The Germans still retain their mother tongue, but the original languages of the Swedes



and the Welsh, for a long time preserved, have been eradicated by the English." To-day, sixty years later, it is seen that the German language is becoming harder pressed. This appears most evident in the churches and schools. Yet so wedded is this people to the old inherited tongue that another century will hardly witness its entire disappearance.

Montgomery county has never been shocked by any real battle fought upon its surface, the nearest decided conflict having been that of Germantown, five miles beyond the southern line, October 4, 1777. Yet could there be written some thrilling and pathetic stories of military movements, defences and quarterings of the soldiery upon its soil, under the eye of "the father of his country," from Whitemarsh and Barren Hill by the Wissahickon on the southern border, to Skippack and the Perkiomen northward, and again westward to the Schuylkill, where history still sighs over the sore privations of the winter among the sheltering hills of Valley Forge. The engagement known as "the battle of the Crooked Billet" (now Hatboro) was an extensive running skirmish, when Whitemarsh was occupied by General Washington.

Besides, in Whitemarsh there are eminences on whose crests burned an army's camping fires—eminences that still bear suggestive titles, such as Fort Washington, Camp Hill and Militia Hill. There are also within the county four prominent houses, each bearing the name of Washington's Headquarters—one at the Whitemarsh camping ground, in the edge of Upper Dublin; another in Whitpain township, now known as the Lewis residence; another in Worcester township, occupied at the time of the retirement to Skippack after the battle of Germantown; and the last one is that at Valley Forge, which an association of ladies purchased in the year 1880, with the view of perpetual preservation.

Of the large number of men born and bred in Montgomery, or otherwise associated with it, who have served in various high positions, national, state and ecclesiastical, or who have been prominent in science, literature, and in numerous other ways, reference can be made here to only a few.

Before the organization of the state government under the constitution, General Peter Muhlenberg, a native of the county, was vice president of the Supreme Executive Council, from 1787 to 1788; Sir Francis Keith, Colonial Governor, lived in Horsham; Charles Thomson, first Secretary of the Continental Congress, lived in Lower Merion.

Of the twenty governors of the state under the constitution, three were natives of Montgomery, and were elected therefrom, namely, David Rittenhouse Porter, serving from 1839 to 1845; Francis R. Shunk, 1845 to 1848; John F. Hartranft, 1873 to 1879.

Prominent among military men were Gen. Peter Muhlenberg, a native of the county, who served effectively in the War of the Revolution; Gen. Andrew Porter, born in the county 1743, served in the Revolution, and was prominent in the battles of Trenton, Brandywine and Germantown; Gen. Winfield Scott Hancock and Gen. John F. Hartranft, both natives, who served with distinction in the War of the Rebellion.

Nicholas Scull, an early Englishman, was Surveyor General of the colony for thirteen years, from 1748 till his death in 1761. He had his residence in this county, and he and his wife were interred in the family burial ground, scarcely more than a stone's cast from the Camp Hill railroad station. He was followed in office by John Lukeits, of Horsham township, who appears to have continued in office for twenty-eight years.

David Rittenhouse was State Treasurer for eighteen years, from 1777 to 1795.

Of Speakers of the State Senate, Charles H. Stinson occupied the position from 1870 to 1876.

Peter F. Rothermel, the painter, who produced the great picture of the battle of Gettysburg, purchased by the State of Pennsylvania, has long resided in Limerick.

In this county were spent many of the laborious years of that distinguished divine, Rev. Henry Melchior Muhlenberg, D. D., who is called the "Patriarch of the Lutheran Church in America." He died and was buried at the Trappe in 1787.

His three sons were all born in this county, partly educated in Germany, and entered the ministry. Peter served as general in the army of the Revolution, was subsequently vice president of Pennsylvania, and made a member of the first, third and sixth congress, as also a senator of the United States. Frederick Augustus, having ministered in various parishes, was four sessions in congress, and was made the first Speaker of the House. Henry E., D. D., became well known in the pulpit in Philadelphia and Lancaster, and as a botanist and scientific author. All were eminent in the trying times for their patriotism. Both father and the youngest son were ready as authors.

But a halt must be made here. It becomes evident that to proceed much farther in this line would extend these pages far too greatly for the occasion. Scores of deserving names could be added, a pleasure that must be foregone.

It will suffice to state that among eminent persons who once had their homes, for years or for life, in Montgomery, are David Rittenhouse, the remarkable, self-taught astronomer, whose fame is world-wide; John James Audubon, the distinguished ornithologist and naturalist; Michael Hillegas, a German, who served as treasurer of the government in the colonial and Revolutionary period. The medical and legal professions have been favored with numerous prominent names.

In the history of the county, by Col. Bean, the department of bibliography presents considerably upwards of one hundred names of writers. On examination it will be seen that the publications of the county's writers pertain to a great circle of subjects—theological and religious, medical, legal, historical, biographical, political, educational, scientific, literary, poetical, etc., etc.

It will yet be in place, as a suitable closing, to mention the volumes its authors have published with reference to the county itself.

William J. Buck issued "A History of Montgomery County" in 1859.

Moses Auge prepared a volume of "Men of Montgomery County" in 1879 and 1887.

Prof. J. K. Harley issued a small book with the title of "A History and Geography of Montgomery County," 1883 and 1891.

Col. Theodore W. Bean, Esq., prepared a large volume of "History of Montgomery County." It was published in 1884, the county's centennial year, which event was celebrated with great interest.

## CHRIST (SWEDES') CHURCH, UPPER MERION.

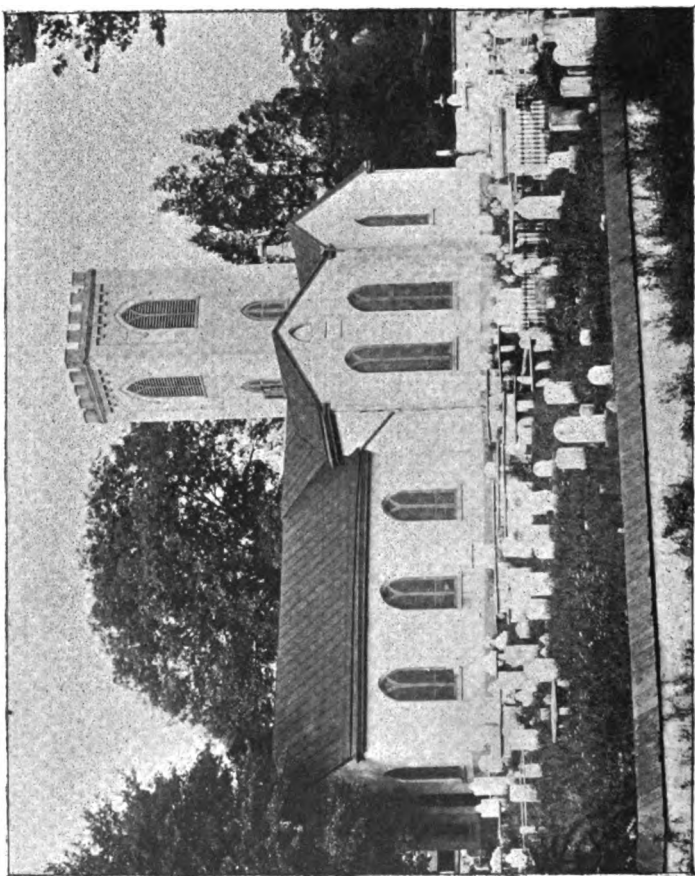
By Rev. A. A. Marple, Rector.

As I undertake the work of writing a historical sketch of this old Swedes' church, I am reminded by an article lying before me of the remark attributed to Horace Walpole, "As for history I know that's a lie." The article appeared in a widely circulated journal, and I will reproduce some of its statements as a lively introduction to a series of facts which I am asked to present.

"When the Crown Prince of Sweden was in Philadelphia, in 1876, during the Centennial Exhibition, he expressed a strong wish to visit an old Swedish church in a neighboring village. This church, with others in Pennsylvania, was built two centuries ago by the eccentric Queen Christina." \* \* \* "It was arranged that the Prince and his suite should visit them on a certain Wednesday in July"; that "a state banquet was to be laid in the Town Hall." And then it is stated that the Prince mistook the date and came on the Wednesday "previous to the one on which he was bidden"; that the "old pastor," when he received a telegram announcing that the Prince was on his way to the place, "called the villagers together and said, open the church and gather there the old and young, grandsire and children"; and that the Prince, after he had listened to the pastor's words of greeting, all the more heartfelt because unstudied, "saw the people in their everyday clothes," "visited their houses," and "each woman brought out some simple fare and begged him to taste it."

There is scarcely one correct statement in this whole account. The visit here referred to was made on Sunday, July 2, 1876, not by the Crown Prince, but by Prince Oscar, the second son of the king. He did not see the people in their everyday clothes, for he came on a Sunday. The statements that the "old pastor" (the Rev. Octavius Perinchief) "called the villagers together and bade them open the church," as if





OLD SWEDES' CHURCH, UPPER MERION.

that were the only resource, and that afterwards, "as the Prince passed from house to house, each woman brought out some simple food, which she begged him to taste," are not only incorrect, but are ludicrously untrue. The services of the church would have been held by the faithful and distinguished rector of the parish with or without visitors. Furthermore, Prince Oscar and his suite, consisting of about a hundred persons, were generously entertained at the hospitable mansion of Mr. William B. Rambo, a vestryman of the parish.

The assertion that "this church (with others in Pennsylvania) was built two centuries ago by the eccentric Queen Christina," is exceedingly wild. Christina abdicated her throne in 1654 (more than a hundred years before this church was built), and thenceforth she was as faithless to her country as to the religion in which she had been trained. Christina was "eccentric," and something more than that, but her eccentricities did not take the form of building churches generations after her death, and for a people and a religious faith scornfully renounced by her.

The Swedes first came to the country bordering on the Delaware, or, as it was then called, the South river, when Christina was a child of twelve years. The date of the arrival of the first Swedish colonists is variously given. Acrelius adopts the year 1638 as marking their arrival under Peter Menewe (or Minuit), a Hollander in the Swedish service. In 1643 and in 1655 other ships of war and other adventurous Scandinavians came and laid the foundations for a state or commonwealth known as New Sweden. The era was propitious; the spirit of colonization animated the nations; and the region selected was one of the most favorable in North America. But there were great hindrances. In 1658 the fiery Governor Stuyvesant, of New Amsterdam, made angry by warlike demonstrations on the part of the Swedes, attacked their forts with a superior force and compelled them to surrender. But the victory was profitless to the conqueror, for, in 1674, a stronger than he came in the person of the Duke of



York at the head of a British fleet, and then the disputed territory on the North or Hudson river, as well as that on the South or Delaware river, acknowledged the sovereignty of Great Britain. Thus was the way prepared for William Penn, who came in 1682 and founded the great commonwealth that bears his name. The Swedes were pioneers. They preceded Penn by nearly half a century. They opened the forest, tilled the land, conciliated the Indians, and maintained the form and spirit of an organized Christian community. Shortly after the coming of Penn, the Swedes formed a community of one hundred and thirty-nine families, embracing nine hundred and thirty-nine individuals—peaceful, hardy and industrious. Nine hundred of the nine hundred and thirty-nine were Americans by birth. William Penn found them in possession of the best lands on the Delaware, and even of the site upon which he proposed to found the city of Philadelphia. His title was superior to theirs. They held their lands by purchase from the Indians and by long years of occupation. He held the great region known as Pennsylvania by grant from the king of England, whose sovereignty was not disputed by any adequate military force.

It was due in part to troubles about land titles that the Swedes, using the Schuylkill as a highway, ascended the river and purchased, under favorable terms, unoccupied land in our own fertile and attractive region. As I write, there lies before me a carefully executed deed bearing the date of 1708, covering property in this immediate neighborhood. There is historical authority for the statement that the Rev. Andrew Sandel, the second rector of the Wicaco church, officiated sometime during his sojourn in America (1702-1719), at "Matt-zong," a name which is comprehensive enough to include the section known amongst us as "Swedeland." Furthermore, we learn from Acrelius (p. 284) that the Rev. Samuel Hesselius, who came to America in 1719 (not 1729 as erroneously printed in Clay's Annals), and remained until 1731, "was content to serve the Swedes in Manathanim upon a small salary,

and to add somewhat to it, also performed service for those in Mattzong."

It was during the time of the Rev. Mr. Hesselius that, at a religious service held by him at the house of Gunnar Rambo, the people present were urged to build a school house to promote the instruction of their children. The appeal of the clergyman was effectual, and a stone school house was built upon a part of our church lot, and stood there for about a century. Within that primitive structure, which doubtless served also as a place of religious worship, was heard not only the voice of the Rev. Charles Magnus Wrangel (who came from Sweden in 1759), but also of his predecessors in Gloria Dei Church at Wicaco, viz.: Olof Parlin, Gabriel Nesmin, John Dylander, and possibly others of the clergy of the widely extended parish.

Whilst it is certain that the ground not far from the old stone school house which we think of in connection with the name of the Rev. Samuel Hesselius was used as a place of burial as early as 1744, it does not appear that a title to the land was actually given until May 7, 1758. At that time a deed was executed by Ezekiel Rambo and wife to Mounce Rambo, Andrew Holstein, Peter Rambo and George Rambo, trustees. It is not improbable that the land thus deeded was an addition to a plot previously secured, and also hallowed by the burial of the remains of dear ones who had departed this life in Christian trust and hope.

The legal steps thus taken in 1758 indicate preparation on the part of the Swedish settlers for an advance in church work. In 1759, Dr. Wrangel, the most eminent of the Swedish ministers sent to America, arrived, and in 1760, under his guidance, this building, known as Christ Church, Upper Merion, was erected, not from contributions received from beyond the Atlantic, but by the gifts and toil of the local congregation. In Dr. Clay's *Annals of the Swedes*, the year 1763 is given as the date of the erection of our church, but a stone tablet on the outside wall of the north transept gives 1760 as the true date. This authority is accepted throughout the parish. Six-

teen years before the "Declaration of Independence" this church was built upon the banks of the Schuylkill, less than a mile below Swedes' Ford, where the patriot army, after the disastrous battle of Germantown, crossed the river on the way to Valley Forge.

The name of Dr. Wrangel is justly cherished in the Swedish churches of Pennsylvania. His distinguished contemporary, Dr. Henry Melchior Muhlenberg, speaks of him in glowing terms. The Swedish Provost was not less zealous than devout, and not less efficient than learned and accomplished. After he had served nine years in America, he returned to his native land, and was honored with an appointment as "First Court Preacher." He was not made a bishop, as has sometimes been stated, but died as the pastor of Sala, in Sweden.

We have spoken of the erection of our venerable church. It cannot be amiss to trace the changes it has undergone and to mention the additions made to the property of the parish: That which is now the nave or body of the church, up to the line of the transepts or wings, is the portion that was built in 1760. For nearly eighty years it was unchanged. In 1837 the form of the church was changed and its capacity enlarged by the construction of the tower and transepts. The entrance door was not, at the first, at the eastern end as now, but on the side towards the Schuylkill. And another feature was a capacious gallery, which extended far out into the body of the church. But the additions made harmonized with the quaint and ancient character of the church of 1760. The enlarged structure was consecrated by Bishop Henry U. Onderdonk, February 1, 1848, the Rev. William N. Diehl being the assistant minister in special charge. In 1847 and 1848, during the incumbency of the Rev. Edwin Lightner, the first rector of this church, as an independent organization, the spacious and comfortable rectory on Church lane was erected. In 1857, during the rectorate of the Rev. Dr. Reese, the far-reaching gallery at the east end of the church was removed, and an organ gallery was built in the south transept. A change was

also made in the chancel. In 1861, the Rev. Dr. Yocom, rector, stained glass windows were put in, a gallery for the Sunday-school children was erected in the north transept, a new vestry-room built, and the chancel enlarged. And in 1863, under the same rector, the Sunday-school rooms were built on the spacious lot near the church. But it must not be supposed that the Sunday school was then first organized. That took place, as I have been informed by Miss Rebecca Lane, in June, 1833, and the old stone school-house, in the lower part of the church lot, was made use of by teachers and scholars to give and to receive religious instruction.

For various reasons no marked improvements were made upon the church or upon the Sunday-school building from 1863 to 1883, a period of twenty years. At the expiration of that time the vestry took the matter in hand. Liberal subscriptions were made in the parish, generous donations came in from friends around us, and the result was an enlargement of the Sunday-school building, the reconstruction of the upper part of the tower, the purchase of a pipe organ, and the general improvement of the church, within and without. The building had been so much changed that we could not undertake the work of restoring it to its ancient form or style.

At several times in the history of our church the money spent upon improvements and enlargements has exceeded, by a considerable amount, the cost of the original structure.

In giving a sketch of Christ (Swedes') Church we must not look merely at the material structure. Our church or congregation did not, at the beginning of its career, stand alone as an independent organization. It was one of three distinct churches which were incorporated in 1765 "by the name of the Rector, Church-wardens and Vestrymen of the United Swedish-Lutheran churches of Wicaco, Kingessing and Upper Merion, in the county of Philadelphia, in the province of Pennsylvania." This charter of incorporation proceeded from "Thomas Penn and Richard Penn, true and absolute proprietaries of the province of Pennsylvania," and was signed by "John Penn, Esq., Lieutenant Governor." After

the great political change that resulted from the war for independence, it was thought wise to secure from the Legislature of our State an "*Act to confirm and amend* the charter of incorporation of the United Swedish-Lutheran churches of Wicaco, Kingsessing and Upper Merion, called *Gloria Dei, St. James and Christ Church*." This act to "amend and confirm" the charter of 1765 was adopted by the General Assembly September 10, 1787. Among other things it provided that, as "the Swedish language was almost extinct, and in consequence thereof the mission from Sweden may probably cease to be continued," in that emergency or crisis the three congregations, together with the church wardens and vestrymen, should establish rules for the choice of a rector and other ministers; "provided always, that such rector and other ministers shall be in the ministry of the Lutheran or Episcopal churches, and hold their faith in the doctrine of the same." Forty-four years after the passage of that act through the Legislature, Dr. Nicholas Collin died, having been the rector of the "three united churches" for the period of forty-five years. "The congregations convened at Wicaco on Monday the fourteenth day of November, 1831, agreeably to public notice," and adopted rules according to which the "vacancy" in the rectorship should be "supplied." On the fifth of December, 1831, the congregations met in their respective churches, and by a vote nearly unanimous chose as their rector the Rev. Dr. Jehu Curtis Clay, an honored clergyman of the Episcopal church. Of the votes cast, sixteen at Wicaco, thirty-seven at Kingsessing, and twenty-nine at Upper Merion, he received all, with a single exception at Kingsessing. The transition from the rectorate of a Swedish clergyman to the rectorate of a clergyman of the American Episcopal Church was made under legal forms which were not suddenly devised to meet a crisis but which had been publicly and prudently provided nearly half a century before.

Another step forward, taken by the corporation which was made up of three churches, is now to be noted. Not a little inconvenience was found in administering the affairs of a

corporation composed of three congregations so widely removed and so differently constituted as were those of Wicaco, Kingsessing and Upper Merion. The advice of that sound and great lawyer, Horace Binney, having been sought, application was made to the Legislature of Pennsylvania for an "act" permitting the dissolution of the corporate bonds by which the three churches had been held together. Such an act was adopted May 4, 1841, in accordance with which each church became, in due time, a separate and independent parish, with its own rector and vestry, and an equitable division of church property was made.

It was on February 25, 1842, that our congregation obtained a charter of incorporation from the Court of Common Pleas of Montgomery County, under which their name or title is as follows: "The Church Wardens and Vestrymen of the Swedish Lutheran Congregation of Christ Church, Upper Merion." The persons named as vestrymen in this charter (presented to the court in 1841, and granted early in the following year) are as follows: Andrew Shainline, J. C. Rambo, Benjamin B. Hughes, William H. Holstein, Robert T. Potts, Nathan Rambo, Davis Henderson, Roberts Rambo, Joseph Crawford.

The first election of vestrymen under the charter of 1842 was held in Christ Church, Upper Merion, May 6, 1843, and the last election of vestrymen at Gloria Dei Church, participated in by the voters of the "three united churches," was held at Wicaco, May 9, 1842. Our proportionate representation in that vestry of twenty persons was four, and our share in the distribution of the church property was five-eighteenths. The property remains, but the four then elected at Wicaco in 1842 have all departed this life. Two of them, Benjamin B. Hughes and William H. Holstein, lived to venerable age, and only recently died, after continued service on the part of each one for more than half a century. It is worthy of note that *three* persons, contemporaries for nearly the whole of the period, have served in our vestry for fifty years and over. Dr. George W. Holstein, who was elected in 1844, two years later than his

brother William, his senior in age, still lives and discharges the duties of his two offices, warden and secretary, with marked interest and intelligence. Benjamin B. Hughes became a vestryman in 1834.

The fact is too important not to be emphasized that Christ Church, Upper Merion, has enjoyed for more than a century the continued services and ministrations of Protestant Episcopal clergymen. This was in accordance with the deliberate plan of Dr. Collin, early formed and never abandoned by him. In the appendix to Dr. Clay's *Annals of the Swedes*, the names of eight clergymen of the Episcopal church are given, who were appointed from 1787 to 1831, to serve as *assistants to Dr. Collin* in his broad field of labor. The first of these was the Rev. Joseph Clarkson, who officiated until 1792. The second was the Rev. Slaton Clay, who, having allied himself with prominent families in the parish, received his appointment as assistant in 1792, and continued to exercise his ministry in Christ Church for nearly thirty years.

The Rev. Slaton Clay is worthy of special notice, because of his intimate relations with some of our oldest families, and chiefly for the fact that for thirty-four years he labored manfully in our church and in neighboring parishes as the devoted representative of the Episcopal church. He was born in Newcastle, Delaware, October 1, 1754. He made choice of the law as his profession, and was admitted to the bar about 1779. In his 25th year, seeking adventure, or gain, or health, he set sail with a friend for the West Indies. A British cruiser captured their vessel and put him ashore at Antigua. At a favorable opportunity he took passage for New York. But new difficulties were encountered. The sailors mutinied, the vessel itself was seized by an American privateer, and after a severe storm was wrecked on the island of Bermuda. Here the young voyager found occupation as a teacher for six years. His thoughts having been turned towards the sacred ministry he determined to return to America and continue the study of theology. In December, 1786, he was married by the Rev. Dr. Collin to Mrs. Hannah Holstein Hughes, the widow of

Col. Isaac Hughes. Mrs. Hughes was then living at the "Poplar Lane" farm, near Gulf Mills. One year afterwards Mr. Clay was ordained deacon by Bishop White, and on February 17, 1788, he was advanced by the same bishop to the priesthood. He soon became the rector of three churches, viz.: St. James, Perkiomen; St. Peter's, Great Valley; and St. David's, Radnor; and in 1792 was appointed an assistant minister of the three united Swedish churches, with special duties at Christ Church, Upper Merion. He lived near the "Gulf" until 1790, when he moved to Perkiomen (Lower Providence), where there was a rectory with a glebe of twenty or thirty acres. He exercised his ministry over a wide region, and accustomed as he had been to the services of the church as conducted in an essentially English community, he was the better qualified to interpret the mind of the church to his parishoners. After a laborious ministry of thirty-four years he died, lamented and honored. His brother, the Rev. Robert Clay, was his contemporary in the sacred ministry, having charge of the church in Newcastle, Delaware.

Soon after the death of the Rev. Slator Clay, his son, the Rev. Jehu Curtis Clay, who had served as an assistant to Dr. Collin from 1813 to 1814, was again appointed to the same position with special duties in the Upper Merion church. From 1822 to 1831 Dr. J. C. Clay was rector of St. John's Church, Norristown, and of St. James', Kingsessing, and assistant minister in the Swedish churches. In the year last mentioned, on the death of Dr. Collin, he was, in accordance with the pronounced and universal sentiment of the churches, promptly elected to fill the vacant rectorate. In the earlier part of his administration of the parish these five clergymen, the Rev. Raymond A. Henderson, the Rev. John Reynolds, the Rev. Samuel Brinckle, the Rev. Wm. N. Diehl, and the Rev. Nathan Stem, all maintained a connection more or less intimate with at least one of the Swedish churches. Mr. Diehl officiated in Christ Church from 1836 to 1840, and Mr. Stem (whilst rector of St. John's, Norristown), conducted services in the same church from 1840 to 1844, officiating not less than



three Sundays every month. Dr. Stem's services were valuable to our parish in its transition period, when about to assume an independent parochial existence.

The list of the six clergymen called by the vestry of Christ Church to the rectorate is as follows:\*

1. The Rev. Edwin N. Lightner, 1844 to 1855.
2. The Rev. William Henry Rees, D. D., 1855 to 1861.
3. The Rev. Thomas S. Yocom, D. D., 1861 to 1870.
4. The Rev. Octavius Perinchief, 1870 to 1873.
5. The Rev. Edward A. Warriner, 1873 to 1875.
6. The Rev. Octavius Perinchief, 1876 to 1877.
7. The Rev. A. Augustus Marple, 1877, and is now in charge at the close of the year 1894.

Thus it is plain that for a period of more than a hundred years (1792 to 1894) Christ Church, Upper Merion, has enjoyed the continued services of the clergy of the Episcopal church. The two Clays, father and son, bridged over the long period of fifty years, from 1792 to the year 1842, when our church became a separate and distinct parish, enjoying the power of self government.

We do not forget Dr. Collin. He died sixty-three years ago, in 1831, at the advanced age of eighty-seven years. For some time before his death his ministrations could not have been frequent in a part of his parish not less than eighteen miles from his place of residence. Of necessity the chief work at Upper Merion for fifteen or twenty years before his death must have been done by others; *i. e.*, by clergymen of the Episcopal church. There can be no doubt as to the feeling and purpose of this venerable man. Dr. Clay says of him (Annals, page 141, second edition): "He constantly, during his ministry, used the prayer book of the Episcopal church." "The church at Christina (Wilmington) became connected

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\*Three of the number, Messrs. Lightner, Rees and Perinchief, have gone to the rest of Paradise. Dr. Yocom is rector of St. Andrew's Church, Richmond, Staten Island, and Mr. Warriner of St. Paul's, Montrose, Pennsylvania. The names of all these ministers are cherished in the parish as those of "godly and well-learned men," who honored Christ and labored for the flock committed to their charge. Mr. Perinchief died at the end of one year's service, when holding the rectorship of the parish for the second time. His body was interred in the church yard not far from the east door of the church, and a granite monument erected by the congregation attests the honor in which he is held.

with the same church as early as 1790," and there cannot be a doubt that Dr. Collin used his influence to secure the same result in respect to other Swedish churches on the Delaware and Schuylkill. The charter of 1765 could not have been amended as it was in 1787 but with his approval, and that amendment was made for the very purpose of putting the "three united churches" under the charge and direction of clergymen of the Episcopal church. That was the intention and that also was the result. Dr. Collin recognized the fact that at the time of the Reformation Sweden did not break with the past as Germany did, but as the Church of England had not done. There was reformation in doctrine, but there was not a *revolution* involving a complete change in matters of organization, dress, ritual, and such matters as do not subvert the "faith." The church of Sweden is Lutheran in respect to doctrine, but it is Episcopal as to its form of church government. In the year 1528 Bishop Peter Magnus, an eminent church official in Sweden, who had himself received consecration as a bishop in the city of Rome, repaired to Sweden and there ordained or consecrated other bishops without, indeed, the sanction of the Pope, but in accordance with the wishes and plans of the civil authority. The ministerial organization of the past, or, according to a phrase much used in our day, the Historic Episcopate was thus maintained and perpetuated. The Swedish Lutheran church has never been without the Episcopate,\* whilst the German Lutheran church never had it, and in the person of Luther rejected or declined it, when it was in his power to get it. The Church of Sweden and the Church of England are not without sympathetic bonds. An archbishop of York became, in the tenth or eleventh century, an apostle of the Christian faith in Sweden. And expression of kindly sentiment was for many years publicly given by the most venerable of English missionary societies, viz., that for the propagation of the gospel, as it bestowed upon every Swedish clergyman, on his final return from America to Sweden, a

\* Rev. Dr. Nicholson, an Anglican chaplain in Sweden, has written in defense of Swedish orders. See also Church Review October, 1881, and July, 1882.

gratuity of £30 sterling, in recognition of the Christian service rendered by him. (Acrelius, pages 363 and 282.)

That worship is conducted in Christ Church, Upper Merion, according to the Book of Common Prayer, is nothing new in its history. We are simply keeping in the path upon which our predecessors walked a century ago. The only strange thing in our history—strange as compared with the action of other Swedish churches around Philadelphia—is that we have not entered into union with the Diocesan Convention or Council. That, however, admits of explanation. More than forty years ago the peace of the parish was disturbed by a contention before the courts that our church should not be permitted to enjoy the ministrations of Episcopal clergymen, as it had done since the latter part of the eighteenth century. Dr. Clay says that the contestants were “a few disaffected persons who had little more than a nominal connection with the congregation.” At all events a decision made by Judge Smyser in 1853 gave to the vestry of the parish undisputed exercise of their rights and privileges as indicated in their charter, and in the “act” of the Legislature of 1787. This is the only attempt, so far as the writer knows, to disturb any of the early Swedish churches in the exercise of their powers or the enjoyment of their possessions.

We began this historical sketch by a reference to the visit made in July, 1876, by Prince Oscar and attendants. We shall make an ending by a brief account of a pleasant incident which was one of the results of that visit. On Sunday, June 28, 1885, the one hundred and twenty-fifth anniversary of the church, there was presented to Christ (Swedes') Church, through the Swedish Consul for Philadelphia, by persons participating in the visit made nine years before, a beautiful baptismal font made of Swedish polished granite. The presentation took place after the usual religious exercises. Morning prayer was said by the rector, assisted by the Rev. Wm. L. Bull, who also made an address. The sermon was preached by the Rev. Dr. Charles A. Maison, rector of St. James', Kingsessing. Dr. George W. Holstein, secretary of

the vestry, then read an explanatory letter from Mr. Julian Daanfeldt, who had been a Swedish commissioner at the Centennial Exhibition, and was, at the time of writing, Consul General of Sweden at Helsingfors, in Finland. And then the presentation of the baptismal font on behalf of the donors (of whom Mr. Daanfeldt had been one of the most deeply interested) was happily made by Mr. Lars Westergaard, Swedish Consul at Philadelphia. On behalf of the vestry and congregation the rector, the Rev. A. A. Marple, gratefully and heartily accepted the gift, beautiful in itself, and appropriate as a stone of remembrance. In speaking of the Scandinavian people represented by the generous donors, the rector referred to the great service rendered by Gustavus Vasa, under whom the conservative work of a religious reformation in Sweden was carried on at the beginning of the sixteenth century, and to the military genius of Gustavus Adolphus, who carried the victorious standards, not just of Sweden, but of religious liberty far down into the heart of Europe. Referring to the period of Swedish church history in Pennsylvania, Mr. M. spoke of the Swedish traveler and botanist, Peter Kalm, who, through his own name, has allied Sweden with America; for that name is associated with one of the noblest of our flowering plants, the laurel, which every student of botany knows as the *Kalmia*. And speaking of the Scandinavian nations of our own day the speaker concluded as follows: "These nations have achieved world-wide fame through the delightful writings of Frederica Bremer, the charming stories of Hans Christian Andersen, the thrilling notes of Jenny Lind, the marvelous songstress of the north, and the profound treatises of theologians, whose names are less familiar to the people than to the scholar. Whilst with honorable pride we touch upon fascinating points of Scandinavian history, this font calls us to the reflection that in and through the sacrament of baptism, they in Sweden and we in America are 'knit together in one

communion and fellowship in the mystical body of Christ the Lord.'"

NOTE.—Since this historical sketch was printed, the writer has had the opportunity of reading the "opinion" of Judge Smyser in refusing to grant the injunction prayed for by certain contestants against "church members and vestrymen" of Christ Church. The "opinion," which is learned and exhaustive, enters into quite a full discussion of various historical, theological and legal questions. Judge Krause had refused to grant an injunction at the petition of the same contestants a few years before, to wit, October, 1847. After the decision rendered by Judge Smyser in August, 1853, litigation ceased, and peace prevailed throughout the parish. Whilst two of the "three united churches," viz., Gloria Dei, Wicaco, and St. James', Kingsessing, have entered into union with the Diocese of Pennsylvania, and are represented in its annual council, our own church maintains an independent existence. The names of our vestry who were elected in May, 1894, are as follows: William H. Holstein, First Warden; Dr. George W. Holstein, Second Warden; Benjamin Thomas, Treasurer; William B. Rambo, R. S. T. Hallowell, George W. Gehret, John J. Hughes, Reese P. Davis, Thomas J. Rambo.

ERRATA.—On page 244, instead of February 1, 1848, read February 1, 1838. On page 249, instead of St. James', Kingsessing, read St. James', Perkiomen.

## NORRITON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

### AND COLLATERAL GLEANINGS OF THE EARLY SETTLERS.

By Rev. Charles Collins,

Formerly minister of the Second Presbyterian Church, Norristown, Pa., 1861-'63, and later pastor of the Centennial Church, Jeffersonville, Pa., for nearly twenty years—1866-'85.

"Which we have heard and known, and our fathers have told us. . . . That the generations to come might know them, even the children which should be born, who should arise and declare them to their children."—Psalm lxxviii, 3-6.

Situated on the old Manatawny road; since A. D. 1800, known as the Germantown and Perkiomen turnpike; five miles north of Norristown, one-third of a mile south of Fairview village, between the nineteenth and twentieth milestones, Montgomery county, Pennsylvania.

History in any of its phases, to the ordinary mind, is always entertaining; and history pertaining to one's country or ancestry is always deeply interesting; while history of a general character, whether compiled from actual facts or traditional, yet being the result of patient research, when carefully studied, is always exceedingly valuable, thought-stimulating and educational.

A natural desire rules largely among intelligent persons to discover if possible something of their antecedents; hence, of late years, the effort is noticeable and commendable, carefully to collect all genealogical facts, and to encourage also, annual family gatherings.

The writer, while a school boy, became interested in the history of the old Norriton Presbyterian Church. In the providence of God, when scarcely twelve years of age, he began to spend the summer months, residing adjacent to this old building, and being naturally fond of the antiquated, took hold with interest to inquire into the history of the past. Although born in Philadelphia, yet a great portion of his life has been spent in close proximity to the church and grave yard of the church in question. Herewith he humbly presents the result

of his patient investigation, to which, for nearly sixty years, at intervals, he has cheerfully devoted time and attention.

With reference to the written records of the Norriton church, they seem to have been irrecoverably lost. Even if such records were kept, they were probably meagre and written at irregular intervals.

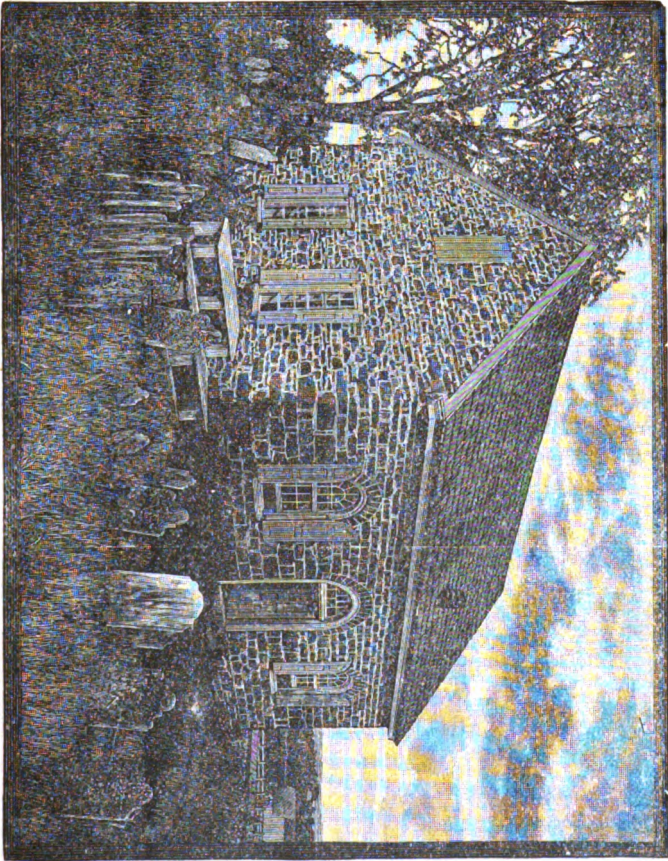
Kindly, yet earnestly, may I just here call the attention of all church officials to see the importance of carefully keeping the records of their respective congregations, including the names of all ministers, the membership, baptisms, etc., and also provide a secure place for preserving the same.

About fifty years ago I made diligent effort to inquire concerning the Norriton Church records, conferring with the late Elder John Shearer and Trustees Jacob Custer and Francis Burnside. The reply was that no records, either of the Session or Board of Trustees, could be found.

Mr. Burnside informed me, and I have since heard the same report, that many years ago, about 1760-'75, some records pertaining to the said congregation were found, written in a small blank book, among a lot of old papers in an upper room of the old Fairview Inn. These records were partly written in German, presumably in low Dutch, helping to establish the traditional statement (to which we shall refer later) that the primitive gathering, if not organization of this congregation, was made up of Hollanders.

The discovery of the Hudson river was made in 1609, and the founding of New Amsterdam, now New York city, in 1612. Therefore, it is not a matter of conjecture but a historical fact, that many years before William Penn's landing in the United States, the eastern part of Pennsylvania as well as a portion of New Jersey were preoccupied by both Hollanders and Swedes.

The Hollanders, however, being a more commercial people, were earlier in the field of exploration, and reached America years before either the Swedes or their more inland kinsmen, the Germans. It is recorded that some Hollanders visited the Delaware or South river in 1598. Settlements



OLD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, NORRITON.





were made upon it in 1623 by Cornelius May. Only ten years later, 1633, and some of them had settled along the valley of the Schuylkill.

It is worthy of note that the existing name of the river "Schuylkill" was originally bestowed by the Dutch, from the circumstance of its mouth having been concealed by several wooded islands, which prevented a ready recognition of the place where it flowed into the Delaware. Hence, from the terms "schuil" or "schuilen," signifying concealed or hidden, and "kill," a channel stream or river, came "Schuilkil," a hidden or concealed river. Schuylkill may therefore be considered a corruption of orthography. Governor Stuyvesant, in 1644, spoke of it as the "Narsche Rivierte," the little fresh river.

The Schuylkill was discovered in the summer of 1616 by Captain Hendrickson, a Dutchman, who entered its mouth in the yacht *Restless*. Twenty years later the Hollanders had established themselves along the river as traders, and dealt largely with the Indians for beaver skins and tobacco. At the same time they obtained liberal acquisitions of land on the river and adjacent thereto, for which cargoes of merchandise were exchanged. As an incident, it is related that an individual known by the name of Old Shrunk, in 1683, caught three thousand shad in one night, and a Captain Smith six hundred cat fish at one draught.

As to the Swedes, it is recorded that they first entered the Delaware river in 1637-'38, under the lead of Peter Minuit, who had previously been in the service of the Holland Company. They purchased land upon the west side of the Delaware, from Cape Henlopen to the falls at Trenton, and westward of the river for forty miles. Later, Christina, afterwards called Wilmington, was founded. Emigrants continued to arrive. Mocopanaca, now Chester; Coaquennack, the site of the city of Philadelphia; Wicaco and Kingessing, now the southern part of said city, became settlements. The Dutch were not idle, however, but planted themselves at New Castle and other points, scattering as far as parts of Montgom-

ery and Bucks counties, tilling the land to the best advantage. At Bensalem, and near Churchville, Bucks county, two churches or worshipping places were established by Hollanders as early as 1670-'75, and the latter place was designated New Holland.

Numbers of English and Welsh settlers also came to these parts previous to the arrival of William Penn; for some English families quartered at Burlington and Salem N. J., in 1675; and some immigrants at the same time entered the Schuylkill to seek homes, but were peremptorily expelled by the Dutch and Swedes, who were jealous of any other competitors for the existing trade along that river.

The records of the Holland church allude to churches, viz.: Passaic, N. J., 1693, Revs. Berthoff, Coens, Du Bois, Van Driessen; Holmdel, N. J., in Monmouth county, 1695-'99, Revs. Wm. Lupardus, Antonides, Freeman, Morgan; at Smithfield, Pike county, Pa., 1737, Rev. Fatenmoet.

Of the Germans, while a few scattered names were reported as early as 1640-'50, as emigrants coming from New Amsterdam to Pennsylvania, yet about the first of their arrival as a body is the record of some twenty families that settled at Germantown in 1683. They continued steadily to increase, extending their settlements in the early part of the eighteenth century, principally to Hanover and Frederick townships, Montgomery county. They took up lands in the valley of Perkiomen in 1700, extending later, about 1720, to Norriton and Worcester townships, and between 1730 and 1740 to Towamencin and Salford townships, and in 1740 going into Berks and Lehigh counties.

To classify and condense the emigration alluded to we would name the Dutch or Hollanders as the pioneers, about 1620; then the arrival of the Swedes, 1637-'40; the incoming of the English Friends or Quakers, 1680-'85: the same years the arrival of the Germans, including the Mennonites, Dunkers, and the Swiss or Reformed denomination; also the Lutherans. Of these original settlers the Welsh came in large numbers, having purchased of William Penn, before leaving England, forty thousand acres in Merioneth or Merion, said land

extending into Chester county, now Tredyffrin township, Pa.

Later, in 1734, came the Schwenkfelders, arriving at Philadelphia and settling in Worcester, Towamencin and Salford, Montgomery county; and in 1742 the arrival of those who were founders of the Moravian church in Pennsylvania.

The late Moses Auge, in his book, "Lives of Eminent Men," alludes to Rev. John Philip Boehm as arriving in Montgomery county in 1720. Also, to Rev. George Michael Weiss, from the Palatinate on the Rhine, arriving about the same time and settling at Skippack, bringing with him four hundred emigrants. Four years after Mr. Weiss' arrival, from a report made to the Synod of Holland, we learn that there were fifteen thousand Reformed members holding to the old Reformed Confession in America, chiefly in New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania. Boehm's work points to Blue Bell Church in this county, and Weiss' labors to Wentz's church, Worcester township.

From another source we find that the meeting houses of the English and Welsh Friends are nearly all marked by their antiquity. As early as 1680-'85, Philadelphia, Burlington, Pemberton, and Mount Holly, N. J.; Gwynedd, 1698; a little later, Plymouth, Horsham, Oxford, Abington, Attleboro, Haverford, Lower Merion, in Montgomery county, and Uwchlan, Chester county; Welsh Quakers, 1690; also, in Tredyffrin township, an old meeting house.

Thus far the writer has recited these historical gleanings as preliminary, and with the view of establishing the fact that some Hollanders, about 1660-'70, and probably holding the lands as squatters, or without legal title, first established this place of worship, subsequently known, and in later years organized as the "Norrington Presbyterian Meeting House."

Notice the fact, that it was not until October 2, 1704, that William Penn, proprietor of the province of Pennsylvania, sold to his son, William Penn, Jr., all the lands comprising the township of Norriton, Montgomery county.

We must naturally conclude that these pioneer Hollanders, and who for forty or fifty years before, perhaps, were

dwellers upon these lands, must have acquired their rights as tenants from some of the Indian tribes, for their main thoroughfare was the Indian road called "Manatawny."

Be this as it may, later on, and probably about 1700-'15, there was a noticeable change. The taxable owners of land now, although comparatively few as yet, were found to be of Scotch-Irish blood, Hollanders and Germans, they having combined together to purchase the lands contiguous to the old log meeting house, located in the then manor of Williamstadt, in Philadelphia county.

In 1707 another great influx of Holland emigrants began; also from Ireland and Scotland.

We proceed then to say that more than two hundred and fifty years ago numbers of men and women, representing family ties, abandoned their homes and ventured across the sea, seeking a peaceful dwelling place upon these friendly shores.

Almost without exception, Protestant in faith, though of different nationalities, yet one motive chiefly impelled them, viz., that they might worship God according to the teachings of the Holy Scriptures, and the dictates of an enlightened conscience.

They loved the truth as comprised in the Gospel of Christ; they gloried in the cross, and the unspeakable privilege of acknowledging and honoring God by an humble life service of faith and devotion, far more than the possession of wealth, fame, or any earthly gifts. Inured to hardships and persecutions, tested by severe trials, and having suffered more or less from fiery discipline, they fled, not as miscreants or criminals, but as peace makers; and so, being constrained by conscientious principles, were led to these friendly shores, that they might enjoy liberty to worship God, and by their lives bless humanity.

Mysteriously providential, yet controlled by infinite wisdom, were the early Protestant Christians directed to this land. Distinctly may we trace the hand of Jehovah in all their movements, and especially discover His grace, in delivering them from the yoke of oppression, and providing them an earthly home where none should molest or make afraid.

Thus they came, suffering deprivations and tossed about roughly over stormy, wintry seas. They committed themselves to God, asking for divine protection and guidance, and after weary weeks they looked anxiously for the sight of land, until at last they were cheered with the realization of another earthly home, though in a strange country.

So, in the beginning of the seventeenth century, did the Hollanders come to New York; a little later the Pilgrim Fathers to the rock-bound coast of Massachusetts; then followed by the Swedes, the English and Welsh; other colonies of settlers from Scotland and the north of Ireland and Switzerland; they were scattered among the hills and along the rivers of eastern Pennsylvania and states of New Jersey and Delaware.

But particularly of the early Hollanders, who were essentially Presbyterian in doctrine, together with the Scotch-Irish Presbyterians, we are to speak. From these nationalities just named, we as Presbyterians feel honored in tracing our forefathers.

Our admiration for the well-established principles of Protestantism and the doctrines of Calvinism, leads us to point to these noble, self-sacrificing men and women, as the faithful missionaries and hardy pioneers to the untried western world.

“ Amidst the storm they sang,  
And the stars heard and the sea,  
And the sounding aisles of the dim woods rang  
To the anthem of the free.  
The ocean eagle soared  
From his nest by the white waves' foam,  
And the rocking pines of the forest roared—  
This was their welcome home.  
  
What sought they thus afar?  
Bright jewels of the mine?  
The wealth of seas, the spoils of war?  
They sought at faith's pure shrine.  
Aye! call it holy ground,  
The soil where first they trod,  
They have left unstained what there they found—  
Freedom to worship God.”

It is our purpose now, in a few paragraphs, to advert to the founding and organization of the Presbyterian church in Pennsylvania, and some reference to other places.

It is worthy of note that Pennsylvania was populated very rapidly, especially its eastern boundaries.

The persecution of the Quakers under the reign of Charles II. and his successors, and the bitter intolerance manifested towards the Protestants by the Papists, drove thousands away from the north of Ireland, who had formerly removed from Scotland.

We cannot trace the calamities and persecutions which continued through four deplorable reigns. That struggle, and the consequent scenes of blood, would of itself fill all the pages allotted for our paper.

Suffice it, that history records consecutive years of severe trials from 1637 to 1661, referring especially to the sufferings of the Irish Presbyterians.

Many were treacherously and brutally murdered; others in large numbers were banished to Scotland; and many were the cases of unjust imprisonment authorized by the Bishop of Down. Other thousands suffered almost martyrdom by excessive fines, imprisonments in dreary prison cells, and cruel whippings, from 1662 to 1688.

Such were some of the providential dispensations, which seemed necessary to prepare our emigrant forefathers for exile, and probably to inspire them with a deeper appreciation for the privileges of worship and gratitude to God, for the strange way that He was pleased to lead them.

From this we may infer, that during the time of James and Charles, the north of Ireland was for a season to the Presbyterians of Scotland what New England was to the Puritans—a place of refuge from persecution, and deliverance from the chains of oppression.

Many, also, known as English Dissenters, were ungenerously dealt with, and after reaching New England were recognized as Congregationalists.

As early as 1637 the pious Rutherford wrote to John

Stuart, Provost of Ayr, Scotland, as follows: "I would not have you think it strange that your journey to New England has got such a dash! Let me hear from you. If I saw a call for New England I would go."

In 1641 a Scotch minister, Rev. Mr. Castell, published a book, commending a plan for introducing the Gospel into the colonies.

Immediately after the battle of Dunbar, several shiploads of Scotch prisoners (Presbyterians) were sent to the plantations to be sold, and of this number many were consigned to servitude beyond the Atlantic ocean.

From 1645 to 1670, numbers of these poor exiles were ruthlessly scattered along the Atlantic coast, from Massachusetts south as far as Charleston, S. C., and even to Georgia. Others made their way to the British West India islands, Barbadoes, Antigua and Jamaica; also, St. Thomas. In the English islands just named, Moravian missions had already been established by the Germans, and at St. Thomas a Reformed Dutch church (Holland) was early organized.

Between 1670 and 1684 (the latter being a year when great numbers were banished to these colonies) Scottish Presbyterians settled along the eastern branch of the Elizabeth river, near Norfolk, Va.; also along the southern part of the state of Delaware, including the peninsula.

Rev. Francis Mackemie—who was settled and preached as a Presbyterian minister, 1683, at Elizabeth river, Va., living at Rehoboth, Md., same year, organized the church at Snow Hill, Md—wrote under date of July 28, 1685, of one Rev. Mr. Wardrope, a Presbyterian minister, as having removed to Pennsylvania to preach. There is a tradition that Mr. W. preached occasionally at Norriton, and that Rev. Mackemie also visited the place.

During the period just referred to, which was some thirty years before the close of the seventeenth century, the Hollanders and Swedes also selected homes, both in Delaware and Pennsylvania. At Duck creek, close to Smyrna, and at New Castle and Christiana creek, they had settlements and



preaching places. The Hollanders usually selected inland residences, while the Swedes selected for their homes lands along the creeks or rivers.

As early as 1662 (which I gathered from an old book in the Philadelphia library) was a reference to one Dr. Thomas Wynne, a medical practitioner. He, together with his brother and other friends, all Hollanders, was found settled in Philadelphia. This was twenty years before the landing of William Penn.

In 1657, at New Amstel (New Castle, Del.), one Rev. Everardus Welius was appointed to preach in the Dutch meeting-house, and his successor, Rev. Warnerius Hadson, who was ordained in Holland, while on his way to this place to preach, was lost at sea during the voyage in 1664.

In 1694 there are records of a small sect of German Pietists, occupying land near Germantown. Twenty years prior, it was reported that a couple of families akin to the above were squatters at the Rising Sun, about two miles southeast of Germantown. The names of the Germantown settlers of 1694 were John Kelpius, John Seelig, Conrad Matthias (perhaps Matthews), and a physician, Dr. Christopher Witte. The latter returned to Germantown, and died there in 1765, living to be over one hundred years of age.

Scotchmen, Hollanders, and some Welsh, combined with William Penn for the purchase of New Jersey; and to-day the large number of Reformed Dutch and Presbyterian churches in that state, some of them organized over two hundred and fifty years ago, abundantly confirm this fact.

Gabriel Thomas, writing from Pennsylvania to London in May, 1695, alludes to "numerous Low Dutch congregations and Presbyterian settlements in eastern Pennsylvania as early as 1671." He adds: "They are chiefly from Holland; a few from England and Wales; and makes mention of these same people as having places of worship and settlements, in Delaware and Maryland.

Among the early settlers in Tredyffrin township, Chester county, Pennsylvania, prior to 1700, were the Friends, or English Quakers, and Welsh Presbyterians.

Dubois, Newkirk and Vanmeter, and others, were among the early names of the founders of the Great Valley Presbyterian Church.

Especially in New York, on Long Island, did the Hollanders, years before the above date, occupy the land. Jamaica, L. I., was possibly the first settled, but at Newtown, L. I., is the record of one Rev. Wm. Leverich, serving as a Low Dutch preacher in 1651, and continuing until 1669.

In Bucks county, Pa., it is well known that large numbers of Hollanders, Welsh and Germans were settled considerably before William Penn's arrival. The same is true as to Montgomery county, Pa. This fact is readily explained; that so attractive a country adjacent to New Jersey, and on the highway to New York, would naturally be sought after and explored by these emigrants. And this circumstance is authoritatively published, that to these parties Edmond Andros, then Governor of New York, granted letters patent for the lands, and thus encouraged them in their primitive settlements. "Watson's Annals" confirms the above statement.

The same Mr. Watson refers to the original Market Square Church, of Germantown (now Presbyterian), as being a Holland congregation, under the Synod of the Reformed church of Holland, and from thence its first pastors were sent. The first building was of logs, date unknown, probably about 1695.

Old records of the Dutch Reformed church confirm the statement, that Holland ministers, perhaps coming from New York or northern New Jersey, visited and preached in North and South Hampton, 1700 to 1710; also at Germantown, Neshaminy, Bensalem, and other places adjacent.

On May 20, 1710, Paul VanVleck, a Holland minister, was installed pastor of the united churches of Germantown, Bensalem and Neshaminy. Traditional reports allege that this same Paulos VanVleck was accustomed to preach at Norriton and the Low Dutch church of Neshaminy a few years before, say about 1705-7, and questions arising concerning his credentials were referred to the Classis at Amsterdam,

and subsequently he was fully recognized in the ministry. He first appeared as a school master, at Kinderhook, N. Y., 1702, and sometimes preached, but complaints were made against him, and he was obliged to desist.

It may, therefore, be reasonably inferred, that a number of these Dutch churches, both in Montgomery and Bucks counties, so far as their origin, were contemporary with some of the Holland churches of New Amsterdam (New York) and contiguous points, probably worshipping in their rude log houses for a half century, more or less, before the organization of the Neshaminy, Bensalem or Abington Presbyterian churches; and likewise before the founding of the renowned Log College.

Let it not be overlooked, that in New Amsterdam (now New York), as early as 1609, Hollanders had landed, chiefly with a view to business enterprises; but the planting of the church as an organization is dated from 1628. It was known as the Dutch Reformed Church.

Twenty-three miles east from Norristown, and two miles from Churchville in Bucks county, is an ancient settlement, known for over two hundred years as "Holland." The remains of a very old grave-yard are still to be found, attached to which, two centuries ago, was a log meeting house, used by a Low Dutch congregation. This spot is located near Feasterville.

The late Rev. Abraham O. Halsey told me (about 1860), while pastor of the Reformed Dutch Church of North and South Hampton (organized in 1710), that the present location at Churchville was the legal successor of the ancient congregation and the old church, which building at Holland had long been obliterated. The present large stone church building is the third erected upon the premises.

Of its former history, there is little known, except traditionally, and the dates, many of them utterly extinct, on the old grave stones.

A few of the names of the seventeenth century were Vandersdalen, Wynkoop, Vanmeter, Coryell, Vanzant, Cornell, Craven, Lefferts, etc.

We shall now speak particularly of the old Norriton Church. Located on the Germantown and Perkiomen turn-pike, near the twentieth mile stone, and about five miles north of Norristown, is to be found the plain stone building, long known as the Norriton Presbyterian Church.

It is a spot of sacred antiquity, as in bygone years the dates upon the tomb and grave stones gave undoubted proof of burials prior to the year 1700. The burial ground is enclosed by a substantial stone wall, giving the appearance of great antiquity.

Evidently the walls of the church are the same as when erected. Over the antique windows are substantial arches of stone, and upon the north or rear side of the house, two small windows, intended for pulpit light, are still there. One large double door, for ingress and egress, is found upon the front or south side.

I remember well, as a lad of ten years of age, the internal parts of this church. I speak of it as it appeared between 1833 and 1843. The pews were the old style, hard board seats, very high, straight backs, so that a child with difficulty could see over them; one aisle in the centre, entering from the door, with two square blocks of pews, on either side of the pulpit. These corner blocks of pews made recesses, in which space two old-fashioned stoves, designed for burning long sticks of wood, each stove conveying tortuous sheet-iron stove pipes to the chimneys upon either side.

The quaint pulpit of the olden time would be regarded as a rare curiosity to-day. Its dimensions were only large enough for a single good-sized man. Where the minister stood to preach was a closely confined place with three panelled sides, having a small desk for the Bible and hymn book, the wood work being dark oak. The steps ascending to the pulpit were narrow and spiral, while directly over the preacher's head was a conspicuous round arched sounding board of perhaps three feet in diameter, neatly made, with ornamented mouldings, out of selected walnut boards. Immediately behind the speaker, upon either side, were the two small windows alluded to.

During the ten years named above, from December, 1835, to January, 1839, the tall, stalwart form of Rev. Robert W. Landis (in later years a professor in Danville Seminary, Ky.) held forth as the pastor of Lower Providence Presbyterian Church; and from May, 1839, until October, 1844, Rev. Sylvanus Haight was the minister. I recall distinctly the reverential appearance and earnest sermons of the latter. He was a man already advanced in years, stout in physical frame, pleasant countenance, snow-white hair, winning with the children, and greatly respected by the congregation. Public worship in those days was regarded as a privilege and not a task; therefore, the first day of the week would show a full congregation, when services were held at Norriton.

Instead of Sunday school, the custom of those days was to hold a singing school in the afternoons, to which the young of both sexes would come en masse, and make the old church ring with the music. A Mr. Foust; also, Mr. Kendall, were the teachers.

Now as to the old grave-yard adjoining the church. It contains perhaps about one-third of an acre of ground, and is enclosed by a stone wall, seemingly in good repair.

In 1833 to 1840, from actual observation, the grave-stones were far more in number, than at this writing. The tomb-stones have generally been well preserved: but the primitive, dark sand-stones, worn by the elements, rain-storms and winters of two centuries, have many of them entirely disappeared.

In 1835 a number of such grave-stones stood fairly up against the church walls on the north as well as the east side. At the time the writer made earnest and repeated efforts to decipher the epitaphs, names and dates and record the same. Subsequently, two or three years later, he made another effort. He well remembers that among the number were some epitaphs graven in Dutch or Holland; also, German words, showing dates prior to 1700. Some were the names of ministers, evidently those who had labored there; others were probably some of the first settlers in this new wilderness; and some two or three had been soldiers, possibly in the Revolutionary War.

In the rear end of the grave-yard is a flat stone without any inscription, said to be very ancient, of a man killed in a neighboring stone quarry. These dark-colored sand-stones, unattractive, dilapidated, illegible, and long uncared for, adjoining the church building, at length disappeared. With some reluctance, yet I feel constrained to furnish an explanation.

In January, 1844, it was deemed necessary by the trustees of Lower Providence Church to repair and modernize the old building; also, to underpin the walls of the house upon the north and east sides, as well as repair the grave-yard walls.

Accordingly, in the following spring, the old style pews were removed and replaced by others, the floors were repaired, the antiquated pulpit and sounding board were taken down, and a new roof placed upon the building. Daniel Shuler and Andrew Shuck, carpenters, did the work.

At the same time the walls were pointed and repaired. It was early spring-time; the masons were short of stone to finish the work; and the old memorial stones, some of them already defaced and broken, together with the old date stone, which had fallen to the ground, were ruthlessly destroyed, gathered together, daubed with mortar and driven under the old walls, thus leaving as a memento of these workmen (their names unknown) a cruel act of thoughtlessness or heartlessness, perhaps both.

This piece of vandalism is much to be deplored, because the very grave-stones in question belonged to the ancient days. They bore inscriptions and testimonies to the memory of the first settlers of Norriton, and the thought is a sad one, that there is no remote possibility that any of those lost names shall ever be restored or recovered.

As already intimated, although the lapse of many years had rendered the lettering difficult to decipher, the family names of some, at least, distinctly bore evidence that they were Hollanders, having the prefix of "Van." The names of some of the first land holders in the vicinity were Dutch, such as Van Fossen, Van Santword, Van Baun, Amish, Yeagle,

Du Bois, Rittinghausen, Kester (or Custer), Beyes (or Beyer), Le Fever and Recup.

It may be proper to add incidentally that the alterations to the old church above were not done by the unanimous consent of the trustees. The Providence Church was without a pastor at the time. The sexton, Mr. Shuck, was directed by Colonel A. W. Shearer and Francis Burnside to put on a new lock upon the front door to prevent the work; nevertheless, the alterations were made.

The items and facts just recited were confirmed by Andrew Bean, an aged resident living immediately opposite the church; also, by Samuel B. Beyer and the late John Hoffman, Esq., who also resided near by.

The ancient tomb and grave-stones, now extant, were chiefly made of marble, and are fairly modern in antiquity, compared with those rude, dark sand-stones, first used in the primitive burial ground.

Taking now a retrospective glance, one can imagine how changed are the surroundings of that old house of worship.

When it was reared out of logs, doubtless a dense forest surrounded it, and the Indian would pause and gaze, and perhaps wondered why it was built there; and frequently, it may be surmised, the curious savages would rest beneath the forest trees, quietly lingering there, ignorant of the old Dutch preacher's message, yet possibly enjoying the sweet concord of sounds welling up from the united voices of the worshipping assembly. The little Indian children would play among the first made graves, and with childish innocence pluck the wild flowers from the silent mound.

No other road save the Indian path was there; afterwards called "Manatawny"; and upon the southern slopes of the present Fairview village did these friendly Indians abide in their accustomed huts.

To speak specifically of the old Norriton Church, my opinion (which has been duly confirmed by traditional statements) is, that this religious society or organization was at first composed of Hollanders, the original members having

landed at New York, but later emigrating from Bucks county thither. It is probable that they made some terms with the Indian owners for the use of the land. Without doubt they built the first meeting house from the trees of the forest, and it is possible about 1675. There was at that time no taxable inhabitants, but it is known that in twenty or twenty-five years later the population had not only materially increased but also changed by the incoming of a new emigration of Scotch and north of Ireland pioneers.

Early in the eighteenth century this fact was established by the names of the owners of farms whose respective tracts of land were parts of the manor of Williamstadt, comprising 7,480 acres (later Norriton township), granted in 1704 to Wm. Penn, Jr., and shortly after to Isaac Norris and William Trent.

In 1712, Isáac Norris, by purchase from Trent, acquired the whole tract. This manor was changed to the township of Norriton in 1730, at which time there were but twenty-five taxables therein.

We append herewith some of the names of those whose tomb stones exhibit dates previous to the Revolution:

Joseph Armstrong, aged 4 years, died April 29, 1740. Archibald Thompson, Sr., aged 68 years, died in 1745. Samuel Thompson, aged 35 years, died in 1746. Robert Thompson, aged 40 years, died in 1746. Robert Thompson, aged 46 years, died in 1747. Moses Thompson, aged 31 years, died in 1748. Robert Dunn, aged 40 years, died in 1748. Jane Christey, aged 72 years, died in 1756. John Christey, aged 87 years, died in 1766. Robert Porter, aged 72 years, died in 1770. Joseph Armstrong, Sr., aged 80 years, died in 1766. Mary Armstrong, aged 76 years, died in 1776. Barbara Henderson, aged 34 years, died in 1772. Catharine Freeman, died in 1776. Archibald Thompson, Jr., aged 39 years, died in 1779.

Many of the older stones were found without any lettering, hence entirely unintelligible, owing to the soft and perishable nature of stone used in those early days. Notwithstanding this, the descendants of these nameless ones who lived after them possessed sterling characters, and were a credit to later generations. Especially true is this, as to many worthy



families who settled as emigrants in both Norriton and Worcester. They were a sturdy stock from the north of Ireland, noted for their enterprise, intelligence, and reliable Protestant principles. These Scotch-Irish people came quietly and unheralded, but made the best of citizens; and although many of their posterity have since removed away from the vicinity of the old church, they have carried with them a good record for honesty, fidelity and christian character, wherever it has fallen to their earthly lot to dwell.

It may not be amiss, therefore, to furnish some additional names found in the little grave-yard, to make known to the present generation, and possibly some relatives, those who once lived in the neighborhood, and worshiped in the old meeting-house.

Buck, in his Montgomery county history, visited this old burial place in 1858, while the writer made his occasional visits to the same place beginning full twenty years earlier, say in 1835.

Armstrong, Bayley, Burns, Hooven, Curry, Smith, Knox, Christey, McCrea, Dunn, Bryant, Darrah, White, DeHaven, Hanna, Fitzwater, Freeman, Fulton, Porter, Foster, Richards, Hiser, or Heyser, Trump, Henderson, Thompson, Keesey, Zeigler, McGlathery, Stuart, Patterson, Philips, Stroud, Stewart, Lefever, Shannon, McLean, St. Clair, Baker, Dettra.

The above, it will be understood, are names representing families, and as a consequence, some names exhibiting a large number of graves. For example: the Armstrong family, one of the earliest, shows over thirty graves. Also, there are several of the Thompsons, the Porters, the Stuarts, the McCreas, the Burns, the Pattersons, and others.

The head stone of one Mary Curry records almost a centenarian, departing this life in 1804, in her ninety-eighth year; also John Porter, dying in 1821, in his ninety-fifth year.

Here lie the remains of Lieutenant Colonel Christopher Stuart, an officer in the Revolutionary War, and an old resident of the neighborhood, who died May 27, 1799, aged 51 years.

This old congregation, claiming, as we believe, to be the mother of all the Presbyterian churches in Pennsylvania, gave the first exhibit of church extension, by the organization of the Presbyterian church, denominated "Norriton and Providence," which occurred in 1730.

This church, now called "Lower Providence," has already erected its third edifice, and dedicated the same in the early summer of 1869.

During the months while engaged in erecting the new church building, the Lower Providence congregation met steadily for worship on Sabbath days in the Jeffersonville church, the same having been tendered by the pastor, Rev. Charles Collins, and session of said congregation.

The Jeffersonville church was taken down and removed in May, 1875, together with the remains of those buried in the cemetery adjoining, about three-fourths of a mile east, on the Ridge turnpike, and a new granite building erected, known thereafter by a new charter, as the Centennial church of Jeffersonville.

Just here it may be proper to say, that after the Lower Providence church was first built, about 1730 or '32, the current of population seemed to turn in that direction, and possibly the spirit of dissension already rife helped also to weaken the old Norriton congregation.

This item will explain how rapidly the then new graveyard of Providence filled up; and likewise, how very many of the same family names were multiplied there, which has since grown to large proportions as a rural resting place for the dead.

This fact of the united congregations, the "Norriton" and the "Providence," so long under the direction and control of the same session, and so long enjoying the same pastors, since 1758 at least, until this writing, 1894, is a remarkable statement; hence, by legal succession, the Lower Providence church has always, heretofore and now, the ownership, as well as all rights in the real estate, and entire control of the building, as to its uses for public worship.

We have also regarded it as a mistake, perhaps lack of due consideration, when in the Spring of 1844, the Trustees of the Lower Providence church permitted the alterations that were then made to the old building. In a previous paragraph we have made allusion. At that time we think the Providence church was without a pastor, or possibly better counsel might have prevailed.

Before the destruction of the old oak board floors, and especially the old pulpit and sounding board, internally, it was a quaint exhibit of the olden time. Why not have done the necessary repairs, but at the same time preserve the work of the forefathers, as was done in the case of the ancient Lutheran church at the Trappe (now Collegeville), erected under the charge of Rev. Henry Melchior Muhlenberg, in 1743.

The venerable Jacob Beyer, Sr., with whom I had many conversations, informed me, about 1835-'40, that the existing old Norriton church was very similar in its external appearance to the old Lutheran church just named, and formerly had, to his distinct recollection, an antiquated hip-roof, which he thought (trusting to his memory), being dilapidated, was taken off about 1774-'75, and the present barn-roof style substituted.

He also told me that his great-grandfather, Abraham Beyer, the founder of the family in Montgomery county, who married Rosina Yeakle in Holland, settled within a short distance of the Norriton church in 1736. He lived just over the line of Norriton in Worcester township, then in Philadelphia county, and died October 30, 1754.

His son was Andrew Beyer, who married Philipina Weyand November 7, 1758, died April 19, 1773, aged forty years, and had removed to the Norriton township farm. His son, Jacob Beyer, Sr., married Rachel Metz. He was born February 14, 1762, and died August 23, 1846, in his eighty-fifth year.

He had a distinct recollection, good memory, and many reminiscences pertaining to the Norriton church prior to, and after the Revolution, was often personally present during

those trying years, and entertained me frequently with interesting recitals of his early days and the by-gone years.

One statement impressed me, and which he loved to repeat, viz., that when his great-grandfather settled there in 1736, he told his family, after careful inquiry and investigation, that the Norriton meeting-house was, at that date, called an old church and burial place, at least a half century or more in existence; that the building was first of logs, and stood some twenty years; that probably about 1698 to 1705 the present stone church was erected; also, that Hollanders were first on the ground; and later, probably just after the violent struggles in Scotland, lasting from 1660 to 1688, the new emigrants took up the soil.

It is a historical fact that the Presbyterian church in Ireland was mainly the offspring of Presbyterian emigration from Scotland, and, as in the sister kingdom, it grew up under severe persecutions and sufferings, driving several ship-loads of emigrants to Philadelphia about 1688-'90.

I might add that Jacob Beyer and Andrew Beyer, sons of the last named Jacob Beyer, Sr., often took pleasure in after years to repeat the above statements. To strengthen this view, fifty or sixty years ago Joseph Metz, Charles Gouldy, the brothers Jacob and John Dorworth, who died aged ninety-four; Christian Dettra, who was almost a centennarian; and one John Metz, now living at ninety-two years of age, have at intervals in past years repeated similar statements to me.

The late John Hoffman, long a justice of the peace, had at intervals in former years given me some valuable traditional statements. He also referred to the old, black grave-stones, now extinct, and referred to an old deed of a Holland minister owning a farm close to the old meeting-house, about 1700-1710.

The following is an extract of a historical sermon by the writer, delivered in July, 1876. It is descriptive of the old house of worship:

"Here, in strange solitude, upon the lower declivity of wooded Methatchen, the old log house of worship stood two

centuries ago. We can readily imagine that the wild and wandering red men oft halted and heard with wondering interest, mingled with awe, the unintelligible jargon of the sturdy Dutchmen who offered prayer in uncouth language to the Great Spirit, or whose lofty hymns of praise went up as sweet incense to the Father of Light from the recesses of these forest glades. They still lingered by the woods and waters that their fathers loved, long after the white man's axe had made scattered clearings, and their dusky children, in company with those of the pale faces, played gleefully over the green hillocks made by the graves of the first settlers.

"The old log church probably stood from thirty to forty years, or until after the arrival of Penn and his English Quakers, and a more steady settlement of the infant province began. An important evidence as to the antiquity of the newer stone church was the old date stone, which stood at the eastern gable of the house. This was broken and destroyed at the same time with the older tomb-stones above mentioned. Unfortunately, it is an undecided point whether this bore the inscription of 1689 or 1698. If the former, it would cause it to rank as the oldest church in the state; otherwise it comes second in antiquity. An approximation toward ascertaining the exact time has been sought through researches among title deeds of lands granted in the vicinity, by which some information might be obtained as from whom the property was derived, and when it was set apart for religious purposes. But insurmountable difficulties have hitherto baffled the search, and no transfer of the adjoining property earlier than 1704 has been found. Probably from no title granted originally from Penn or his successors, does it owe its land.

"But forty or fifty years later the original Dutch settlers were to be superseded by another and a very different people, speaking a different tongue, though worshippers in the same faith, and also adherents of the theology of Calvin, the Scotch-Irish. From and after 1700 these came in and settled the surrounding country. We can imagine that from their predominance the language used in worship was speedily changed to English; that there were some jarring and disagreements in those rude times with the former inhabitants; but that the latter soon acquired English and became accustomed to the new order of things. The inscriptions found upon the present tombstones inform us of the family names common among these Scottish settlers. In after times, at a much later period,

still another influx of people of another race began gradually to occupy the surrounding region, strangers to the language, and unfamiliar with the manners and customs, as well as the traditions of the Presbyterians. These were mainly German Dunkards, Mennonites and Schwenkfelders. Thus smothered and hemmed in by adverse influences the old church began to decay, its membership died, emigrated to the west, or removed to more congenial associations, until it has long since ceased to exist as a separate organization.

"In the beginning of December, 1777, a division of the American army under Washington began its march towards Valley Forge, which was to become famous for all time, on account of the sufferings and hardships endured there with such patience and fortitude. The weather was cold and severe during their march thither. A portion of the sick and exhausted soldiery found welcome rest and shelter for a brief period within the walls of the Norriton church, which lay along the route of their dreary march.

As confirmatory of the premises we have already taken concerning the status, age and changes of the Norriton church, it will be helpful to carefully observe the following facts:

The Bensalem church, as furnished by Dr. Thomas Murphy in his excellent "History of the Log College," sets forth the age of the Bensalem church, Bucks county, as being organized in 1710; adding, "it must have been a preaching place for some years before. Its proximity to the settlement of Hollanders, who, at an early period, formed the Dutch Reformed church in the neighborhood, and the many Dutch names found among its original members, would indicate that a large part of its families at first came from that people."

With reference to the church of Norriton and Providence, Dr. Murphy says: "We have been much perplexed with the question whether Norriton (at first called Norrington) or Bensalem, should have the first place in the annals of our Presbytery."

It is certain that in Norriton we have the very first trace of a Presbyterian enterprise within our bounds. A trustworthy tradition affirms that a plot of ground was purchased there for a grave-yard, forerunner of a church, in the year

1678, no less than twenty-seven years before the founding of the Presbytery. \* \* \* It also appears, that a Welshman named David Evans was preaching in that neighborhood before 1705. \* \* \* It comes to light with certainty, that in 1714, Norriton enjoyed stated preaching by Rev. Malachi Jones, who was then pastor of Abington church. At that time, 1714, we date the commencement of the Norriton church as Presbyterian, though, undoubtedly, it was a preaching place long before.

The church of Providence, which was founded sixteen years later, in 1730, adopted the strange plan of holding services in Norriton during the winter season, and at Providence during the summer.

Many of the names of the worthy ministers who labored in these two churches, have been lost, but the following are known to have preached there:

Malachi Jones, 1714, for thirteen years; David Evans, 1727, four years; Richard Treat, 1731, ten years; John Rowland, about 1741-'45; John Campbell, 1747, six years; Benjamin Chestnut, 1756, nine years; David McCalla, 1774, eight years; Wm. M. Tennent, 1782, thirty years; Joseph Barr, 1814, three years; then followed John Smith, Joshua Moore, Thomas Eustice, Chas. W. Nassau and William Woolcott; Rev. Robert W. Landis, December, 1835, to January 1839; Sylvanus Haight, 1839 to 1844.

Rev. Henry S. Rodenbough was ordained and installed May 14, 1846. Faithfully, and most acceptably he ministered to this congregation, and was called to his heavenly rest, deeply mourned by a devoted people, May 3, 1890. Rev. Claude R. Brodhead is the present pastor, and was installed October 3, 1890.

The Abington church, Montgomery county, was organized 1714, Rev. Malachi Jones, pastor; and the Neshaminy church in 1726, when Rev. Wm. Tennent, Sr., became pastor, and continued for sixteen years.

Traditionally, we have the statement, that the coming into the vicinity of the Norriton and the Providence churches, of

one Rev. John Rowland, about the end of 1739 and through 1740, a most memorable revival of religion transpired. He preached in the two churches alternately, until the whole region round about seemed pervaded with "the great awakening."

Of this noted evangelist we shall have more to say in some following pages. Suffice it, that scores of sinners were converted, and many careless Christians revived and established in the faith.

It is certified that among the number were the grandfather and grandmother of Rev. Archibald Alexander, D. D., long the beloved and greatly respected professor in Princeton Theological Seminary. In the Providence grave-yard, may be found the progenitors of the Alexanders belonging to two or three generations.

The above facts, calmly considered, go very far to establish our plea, that the Norriton church is really the oldest in the state, not excepting the meeting-house at Lower Merion. During the early part of the eighteenth century this church was well-known to the Hollanders settled in Bucks county, as well as New Jersey, and later, during the great revival that began at Freehold, N. J., in 1732, under the labors of Rev. John Tennent, the Norriton church, as a Presbyterian congregation, notably participated.

A remarkable schism interrupted the progress of the Presbyterian church as a denomination, in 1740. It made havoc as the evil rapidly spread. The log church first built at Providence, had been recently replaced by the first stone building.

Owing to the prevailing disturbances, Norriton was without a regular pastor, but one, Rev. John Kincaid, took hold as their minister, and did a good work.

Rev. John Rowland, who had received his education at the Log College, applied for a license to the Presbytery of New Brunswick, N. J. He was ordained as an Evangelist June 1, 1741. After laboring a year in New Jersey, he came over into Pennsylvania.



In 1742, accordingly, he took charge of Lower Providence church, and Charlestown church, Chester county, Pa. But whilst he was the instrument in performing an extraordinary work in the community, with ability and tact to reach the masses, yet a little later, dissensions, strife and personal envy, resulted in disorder.

Largely as a result of the division of the Presbyterian body just referred to, it was destined to divide many of the congregations, and had already most seriously affected both Norriton and Providence churches. The tendency was to weaken both, but Norriton suffered most.

The consequences of the schism, and the soreness resulting from the separation of kindred and friends, had kindled undue animosity; hence, even those who were workers in the Master's vineyard, were first to suffer.

To advert to the causes of the division, we might say, that for two or three years preceding the preaching of the renowned Revs. Geo. Whitefield and Gilbert Tennent, so eloquent and earnest, yet so thoroughly Evangelical in its tone, had arrested the unusual attention of the multitude.

The lethargic slumbers of the formal professors of religion were awakened by these bold innovators, whose service naturally aroused opposition.

The two parties were called, by way of distinction, "old lights" and "new lights."

Long fomenting grievances resulted in increased hostility, the division of congregations, together with untold acrimony, and a spirit of unforgiveness.

Old Norriton church, with its staid membership and rigid adherence to the Westminster standards, opposed Whitefield. A goodly portion of the members seceded, and cast in their lot to strengthen the Providence church, and uphold the teachings of Rev. John Rowland.

He was evidently an independent preacher, with boldness, fortitude, and ability to defend his cause, yet remarkable for his readiness to speak fluently, intelligibly, and convincingly to those who were not yet heirs of salvation. To show the

character of the man, we quote from a narrative written by him in 1744, now one hundred and fifty years ago.

Is it not true that "distance lends enchantment to the view," as we learn, that the glamour which appears as a bright vision, and which we are inclined to call "the good old times," is apt to be dispelled, as we get a nearer and clearer view of former days.

He attempts to describe in no very favorable terms the character of the people to whom he was then ministering, at New Providence church, as it was then called.

The tone of this letter is exceedingly condemnatory as to the spiritual condition of the membership, charging upon them an exhibition of unkindness in their intercourse with one another, and an utter lack of benevolence and Christian charity.

In this narrative which he wrote and addressed to Mr. Prince, he says:

"In the year 1743 I came to live in Charleston, Chester county, Pa., and have continued according to the order of Presbytery, preaching among them, and the people of New Providence.

"But as my ministry has been chiefly successful in the latter place since I came into these parts, I shall only speak of what I have observed of the work of God in New Providence.

"The people of this place, before I came, were but an ignorant sort of people, unacquainted with religion, both as to principle and practice; and though they would pretend, some to belong to one denomination and some to another, yet a vain name, was all. Looseness prevailed much in the place, and there was not one to speak to another in a suitable manner, neither of the vileness, deformity and unprofitableness of the ways of sin, nor of the glory and excellency, and profitableness of the ways of God.

"I know not that any of them observed family prayer, or ever asked a blessing on their food. This was the case among them, as they told me several times, and again since I began to write this narrative.

"The conviction and conversion of the people of New Providence occurred within about two months of one another.

"It was the time of my traveling among them that the Lord chose to bless for their ingathering into Jesus Christ; and since I have labored steadily among them it has been as much my endeavor to build up those who were called into the fellowship of God as to convince sinners of their misery; and to this end my labors were blessed again among them throughout the year 1744.

"As to their conviction and conversion unto God, I may say, they are capable to give a scriptural account of these things.

"I forbear to speak of many extraordinary appearances, such as some scores of persons, crying out at one instant for mercy, and of others, falling down and fainting.

"These people are still increasing; and, blessed be the Lord, since the great revival, are endeavoring to walk in communion with God, and with one another. And for this end they now meet in society in the meeting-house, two or three hours at a time, for praise and prayer, and they find this an excellent means to prepare them for the Sabbath.

"They are now careful to maintain the worship of God in their families, and to use all agreeable, proper means to increase their own knowledge in the things of God.

"I choose to say no more, though I may truly say, that what I have spoken of the glorious work of God in this place, is but a little to what I might have said."

The authority for the above, is the Rev. Archibald Alexander, D. D., page 353, "Log College," published by the Presbyterian Board.

Dr. A. adds, "that the faithful, yet sometimes denunciatory preaching of Mr. Rowland, gave him the soubriquet of "Hell-fire Rowland."

A veritable yet remarkable story is told of Rowland, which involves some interesting questions of psychology, and seems to show in a remarkable case how mysterious are the subtle workings of the human mind, concerning the philoso-

phy of which science has as yet given us little light. It also indicates the almost incredible animosity and rancor existing at that time, and which was exhibited by so-called Christian people. These hesitated not at any effort that malice could devise, by which might be ruined, not their enemies, but preachers of the Gospel, and members of the same household of faith.

For a very singular reason, Rowland was once arrested as a horse thief, and came near suffering the penalty in that case made and provided. It seems that a noted scoundrel of this type so resembled in physical appearance the reverend gentleman, that people could not readily distinguish between them. The horse thief was in the neighborhood of Freehold, N. J., when the landlord of a hotel where he stopped, addressed him by the name of Rowland. The man was not slow to take the hint, that here was an excellent opportunity for profiting by their mistaken identity. He may not have been acquainted with Rowland, but had doubtless heard of him. Assuming his name and title, and gifted with facile address, he easily imposed himself as the preacher. He was soon afterward at the house of a deacon, a leading member of a church, and had been appointed to preach on a Sunday morning. With his household they rode toward the place of worship. But a member of the family rode behind the wagon, astride a splendid horse. We may be sure that the sight of the superb beast was quite too tempting to the would-be preacher, and he instantly formed a plan to make him his own. He suddenly pretended that he had forgotten his sermon at the house. The horseman politely offered to go back and get it for him, but the false Rowland said no one could find it so readily as himself. If the other would but take his seat in the wagon, he would mount the horse and go back himself. This was unsuspectingly complied with, and it is needless to state that the congregation vainly waited for the preacher to appear that morning, and the good deacon never saw his handsome steed again.

When this took place, Rowland was many hundred miles away in Virginia preaching, in company with Tennent and Anderson. When they came back, Rowland was quickly arrested as the thief. Of course Anderson and Tennent were able to swear to an alibi, and he was soon acquitted. But the animosities of the "Old Lights," who had instigated Tennent's arrest, thus baffled at one point, took revenge at another. They had Tennent and Anderson arrested for perjury. Unable to find confirmatory proof, and surrounded by their foes, their trial came on at Trenton, and Anderson was first convicted. As part of his punishment, he had already stood in the pillory. But Tennent was most providentially acquitted by the arrival of a man and his wife from Virginia, who knew them both, and had been forewarned of their peril. On three successive nights he had been warned in a dream of the danger in which these preachers stood, and so vividly had it impressed his mind, that he determined to go to their rescue with his testimony. It is said that Tennent had all the while declared, that some unforeseen interposition of Providence would save him and his companion, so great was his faith and trust that his prayers would be answered. Of course the man's testimony established their innocence, and the release of both resulted.

Rev. John Rowland died in 1747. Then Rev. Richard Treat, of Abington, took charge of the Providence and Charleston churches, Rev. David Brainard acting as assistant pastor.

In the autumn of 1747 Rev. John Campbell was ordained and installed pastor of the Providence and Charleston churches, and remained until 1753. His call from life and duty was sudden. He was in the act of giving out the 116th Psalm, to sing these words, when instantly stricken with palsy in the pulpit:

"Dear in thy sight is thy saint's death,  
Thy servant Lord am I."

He was buried at Providence grave-yard, and on his tomb may be found this inscription:

"In yonder sacred house I spent my breath;  
Now silent, mouldering here, I lie in death.  
These silent lips shall wake and yet declare  
A dread Amen, to truths they uttered there."

Then followed Rev. Benj. Chestnut, who resigned in 1763. His wife Judith lies buried in the Providence cemetery, adjoining the church.

After the reunion of the Presbyterian church in general, in 1758 (following the schism of 1741), the name of the Norriton and Providence churches was assumed, and by a renewed amicable arrangement, they worshiped for many years after, alternately, in the two churches.

Rev. Richard Treat, of Abington, took charge in 1763, and continued until 1772. Then Rev. David McCalla followed for eight years.

Later, in 1782, Norriton, Providence and Abington all united in securing as pastor Rev. Wm. M. Tennent, D. D., who continued with much favor and marked success to minister to these churches for thirty years until 1810.

Pursuing my investigations between 1845-'55, I was several times entertained by Mrs. Margaret Knox, widow of Robert Knox, who was the oldest son of Capt. Andrew Knox. The latter was somewhat renowned in his day, from the circumstance that an unexpected assault was made upon him by some Tories one night (February 14, 1778) during the Revolutionary War. While there appeared to be threatenings on the part of these evil disposed men, they were unsuccessful, and were driven off, Capt. Knox holding the fort. His son Robert, above alluded to, was married to Margaret McNeely, April 6, 1800, but he was a witness and present when the affray occurred, and lived for many years after, to recount the hair-breadth escape of those dangerous night prowlers.

During our interviews, Mrs. Knox would often expatiate with much earnestness in describing the eventful scene, exhibiting to me the front door of the farm house, that had been pierced with a number of bullet holes, and which door, subsequently, was given to Independence Hall, Philadelphia, as a relic of those troublous times.

Among other items of the by-gone years, the old lady called my attention to what was left of an old, decayed willow tree, nigh to the old spring-house, and stated that General

Washington, upon an occasion of making a visit, having come from near Germantown, after alighting from a handsome white horse that he rode, himself took the willow switch which he had used as a whip, and planted the same, that for over a half century or longer, was the well-known thriving, luxurious, shady Washington tree.

Our conversation usually led to the old Norriton church, about which she loved to talk, reverting to the old-time Sabbath days, as days of privilege, as well as a time of social greeting.

Vividly she would refer to the congregation, naming numbers of those who were active and conspicuous in the church, mostly persons living in the vicinity as neighbors and familiar friends; and then, often with a sigh exclaiming, "but they are all gone, and I am left alone!"

I recall with much satisfaction my visits to the old farm, and remember well her personal appearance, cheerfulness of manner, and her readiness to communicate.

She departed this life about 1861, and was interred in the cemetery of the First Presbyterian Church, Norristown. She was the aunt (by marriage) of the late Col. Thomas P. Knox, of Norristown.

Considering her advanced age, Mrs. Knox's memory was excellent. The acquaintances of her early years, together with certain scenes attaching to the old Norriton church, had made a lasting impression upon her mind.

When quite a young woman, she remembered the Rev. Dr. Wm. Tennent, who she described as a fine-looking, portly man, with a pleasant countenance, gray hair, and with manners always dignified, yet proverbially cheerful and social. While the older persons had an intense admiration for the minister, at the same time, the young people clung closely to him.

She remembered distinctly of his coming from Neshaminy to Abington, some twenty miles, usually on horseback, and preaching statedly about once a month, and during the summer oftener. She loved to describe the venerable and solemn

preacher as he stood in the quaint pulpit, closely shut in, speaking under the old sounding board.

In 1812 the labors of Dr. Tennent, including his long miles of travel, became too severe for his endurance, and he resigned the pastorate, greatly to the regret of the congregation.

For the two following years, the church was supplied by occasional preaching by neighboring ministers, some of them coming from Philadelphia, until 1814, when Rev. Joseph Barr was called, and remained for three or four years.

Another old lady, a Mrs. Shannon, far advanced in years, yet with faculties unimpaired, took delight in calling my attention to the congregational singing in those old days. It was before the professional singer was born, before the quartette had any existence, and before the pipe organ was granted permission to sound in any Presbyterian church.

William McGlathery was the excellent precentor, or leader, of the singing. He stood immediately in front of the pulpit, facing the congregation, and who, being in his prime, having a good physique and strong, clear voice, carefully beating the time with the accuracy of the metronome, he made the welkin ring.

The old tunes of Norriton church were St. Martin's, Duke Street, Wells, Shirland, St. Stephen's, Arlington, China, Peterboro, Warwick and Old Hundred.

Mr. McGlathery was also a genius in his way. To assist him in leading the singing he had invented and made with his own hands a small, neat, wooden mouth organ, which, by placing to his lips, he could at once obtain the pitch or proper sound. This he carried with him to the church as carefully as he did his hymn book, and which, too, he found to be helpful in raising the songs of Zion. Robert Stinson, John McCrea and Joseph Armstrong, assisted in leading the singing.

I may add, that I had the pleasure of conversing with Wm. McGlathery and some of his family with reference to the Norriton church many years ago, when they resided near Washington Square, northeast of Norristown.



William McGlathery, just referred to, was the father of Mehelm McGlathery, a worthy and respected citizen of Norristown. The latter is still living, with mind and memory in healthful exercise, genial and communicative, at the advanced age of ninety-one years, having been born November 2, 1803.

It should be mentioned, that John McGlathery was among the early settlers in this county. He came from Scotland, doubtless with those worthies who sought a refuge from persecution, and brought with him the established principles of the Christian religion, as held by Calvinistic Presbyterians. He was born in 1693 and died in 1784.

Isaac McGlathery, son of John, became distinguished as a lieutenant in the Revolutionary War. He was born in 1749 and died in 1834.

William, alluded to in the above paragraphs, was the son of Isaac. He was born in Norriton in 1775, died in 1850; and had six children, viz., Mehelm, Samuel, John, Ann, Martha and Rachel.

An incident may be introduced here. During the Revolutionary War this old church was used by the soldiers for quarters, and later, in 1777, for the purposes of a hospital. It was currently reported that Gen. Washington, while tarrying at the Peter Wentz Inn, located on the Skippack road, in October, 1777, made one or two visits to the church.

In consequence of the damages that said church suffered during the war, the Assembly passed an act in 1785, on September 17th, allowing a lottery, to raise money to pay for necessary repairs to the church.

The writer has also a clear recollection of several conversations with some of the older residents living near the church, about 1833 to 1838. The grand-parents of these persons were the first white settlers of Norriton. They had communicated to their children the fact of the Rev. Geo. Whitefield having preached in the church in 1743.

Thirty years before, Rev. David Evans, and a little later, Rev. William Tennent, preached there; also, the name of Rev.

Richard Treat and Nathaniel Irwin, were familiar as among the useful ministers.

From their own memories, going back to 1780-'85, they assured me that they could distinctly recall the presence of Benjamin Franklin in attendance at the church, both before and after his return as Minister to France. He was accompanied each time by the astronomer, David Rittenhouse, who enjoyed the friendship and companionship of Franklin, as his guest.

The grave-yard was on the extreme western corner of the Rittenhouse farm. The oldest histories of Pennsylvania extant, as well as Watson's Annals, briefly refer to this ancient church and cemetery.

The old church property adjoined, and was once part of the Matthias Rittenhouse farm. He purchased the place in 1734, and evidently found the place of worship already located there, and conveyed the property three years later, although himself a worthy member of the Mennonite denomination. David Rittenhouse was at that time but two years old, having been born in 1732 in Germantown. In 1764 Matthias conveyed to his son David this same farm.

The ancient, time-worn deed is dated March, 1737, and recites that this property is a part of 7.482 acres of land, coming from William Penn, proprietor and Governor of the province of Pennsylvania, made to John Penn, Jr., which the latter sold to Isaac Norris and William Trent. Subsequently, Isaac Norris became the owner, and conveyed about one hundred acres to Matthias Rittenhouse in 1734.

The contract is made between Matthias Rittenhouse and Elizabeth, his wife, of the township of Norrington, county of Philadelphia, and "ye said Presbyterian Profession of ye township, aforesaid, conveying seventy-two poles of land" (giving the boundaries) "for a meeting-house and grave-yard for ye use of ye said Presbyterian Profession of ye township aforesaid," adding, "Now this indenture witnesseth by ye said Matthias Rittenhausen and Elizabeth, his wife, for and in consideration of one silver half crown, current money of England,

to them in hand paid by ye said Presbyterian Profession, that they do hereby convey and confirm," etc., etc.

The probability is, that Matthias Rittenhouse, having found the meeting-house and old grave-yard upon the corner of his farm, and having been located there before Wm. Penn's purchase, was prompted by generosity, as well as honorable motives, to convey the ground to "ye said Presbyterian meeting-house," as the above deed defines.

In his boyhood days, upon this farm (then owned by Samuel Gouldy, who purchased it in 1811), the writer remembers what was left of the old frame observatory, together with its foundation of stone, which had been built and used by David Rittenhouse in his astronomical researches; and, also, an English box-wood tree, that had been brought by Franklin, from London; and was growing and flourishing near to the dwelling house, on the farm of his familiar friend Rittenhouse.

Although nearly a hundred years have passed since the death of David Rittenhouse, it may be recorded truthfully to-day, that in scientific research and astronomical ability, he has not been excelled since. And, while not designing a biographical sketch of the deceased, the circumstance of his home and surroundings being contiguous to the old Norriton church, and the same having been the gift of his parents, will explain the reason, for the following additional paragraphs.

The farm house is still standing on the opposite corner, about two hundred feet southwest from the church, where Rittenhouse, at seventeen years of age, made his first wooden clock. Here, also, he attempted his first astronomical observations; having a superb view of the heavens, especially looking north and south, from this point of Fairview. For many years this farm was owned by Jacob Harley.

As I remember this house, in 1835, on its west end Philip Harley kept a country store. He took delight in calling attention to the above, and showed me the identical second-story front room, which still retained some memorable marks, left by Rittenhouse. Later, as I was informed, in the same house, he manufactured the first large eight-day clock, termed

his Astronomical clock ; exhibiting the changes of the moon, with moving calendar ; which in these modern years have been sought after, simply known as the David Rittenhouse grandfather clock.

The year 1769 is memorable in the annals of astronomy. During that year, his successful observations and subsequent reports, pertaining to the transit of Venus, made him world-renowned. The same year there was also a transit of Mercury ; when along with such names as Dr. Smith, Lukens, Owen Biddle, and others, he rendered his observations, which were published by the American Philosophical Society ; when again, David Rittenhouse, of Norriton, equalled them all.

In 1770 he conceived the idea of endeavoring to report by machinery the planetary system. The relative situations of the members of the solar system, at any period of time, for five thousand years back, could be shown in a moment.

This was pronounced a great success. President John Adams extolled him. Rev. Dr. Samuel Miller, of Princeton College, spoke in high praises concerning his invention. Dr. Gordon, the English historian, said : " There is not the like in Europe." Dr. Morse, the geographer, eulogized him.

His friend Thomas Jefferson said : " Surpassing in ingenuity, contrivance, skill, accuracy and utility, any thing of the kind, ever before constructed. \* \* \* He has not, indeed, made a world ; but he has by imitation, approached nearer his Maker, than any man who has lived, from the Creation, to this day."

For this wonderful instrument, the Orrery, two universities vied with each other to obtain it ; the University of Pennsylvania, and Princeton College ; while the former, Dr. Smith, desired to have it, yet, Dr. Witherspoon, of the latter institution, secured it by the payment of £300.

These facts lend interest to the spot, made memorable by the works, and inventive faculty of David Rittenhouse at Norriton ; with the near prospect of the old church, being always in sight from his country home, and the attractive for-

est-covered Mehacton Hill (usually pronounced Methatchen), lying in the near south-west.

He was born April 8, 1732; retained this place as his rural residence, until 1796, being 62 years; and departed this life in Philadelphia, June 26, 1796; aged 64 years.

Another family name, more intimately associated with the early years of the old Norriton church, was that of Armstrong.

The writer is favored as the recipient of an old manuscript, giving many interesting items.

The Armstrong family were of the Scotch-Presbyterian persuasion. The possibility exists that the elder Armstrong came over with his family about the time of Penn's landing. This record has been lost. Joseph Armstrong, Sr., the son, was born in 1686, died 1766, aged 80 years. Ephraim Armstrong, son of Joseph, was born 1730, died 1804, aged 74 years. Joseph Armstrong, son of Ephraim, was born 1762, died 1844, aged 82 years. Benj. E. Armstrong, son of the last named Joseph, was born 1798. He removed to the state of Ohio, from Pennsylvania, in 1849, and died there, about 1876. All the above (excepting only Benjamin) together with some thirty members of the family, all lie buried in the old Norriton church ground.

Ephraim, inherited the old farm from his father in 1767; who had settled upon the land, about 1710.

To encourage rapid settlement, this land was not sold; but was let out on perpetual lease, at the low price of ten bushels of wheat per year, as a consideration for each 160 acres; said wheat, to be delivered at Robison's mill, on the Wissahickon, five miles north of Philadelphia. Then, there were no surveyed roads; and the delivery was by pack horses. In 1815, the lands were relinquished from the leases, and a fee simple deed issued, in its stead.

Ephraim was father to eleven children; five sons, and six daughters. The Revolutionary war found him with this large helpless family.

He was in comparatively easy circumstances; but the

fortunes of war, during the severe winter of 1777-8, palced him, as it were, just between the winter quarters of the contending armies.

Washington's suffering and almost starving troops at Valley Forge, four miles distant, and the British outposts being only eight or ten miles distant on the Philadelphia side, made him subject to the frequent visitation of the enemy's marauding parties, while distressed also, at the famishing wants of the American army. This state of affairs continued for more than six months; and the surrounding country, as a consequence, was not only reduced to a state of actual destitution, but many lacked even the necessary comforts of life.

But this was not all. During the horrors and desolation of the war, in addition to the trial of being despoiled of a means of subsistence, Ephraim was drafted in the army which Washington was recruiting with a view of dislodging the British from Philadelphia.

This was an emergency; a condition of things to try one's soul.

To leave his family in an unprotected condition at such a time, was to leave them to perish.

Joseph, his first born son, was then in his sixteenth year, A recruit, particularly as a substitute, was required to be eighteen.

In this dilemma, Joseph, who was of large stature and manly appearance for his age, resolved to use the pardonable deception of passing himself for eighteen years, and taking the place of substitute for his father, in which plan he succeeded, and thus entered the army.

He was subsequently in the battle of Monmouth, N. J.; which was fought on the 28th day of June, 1777, ten days after the evacuation of Philadelphia. He stood faithfully to his duty, in skirmishes, and battles, throughout the war; and to the admiration of the officers, established his well earned military reputation.

When peace was restored he returned to his father's farm, where he remained until he was married; except a period

of two years, spent in the employ of the Commissioners, David Rittenhouse, of Pennsylvania, and DeWitt Clinton, of New York; appointed to settle the boundary lines of those two states.

Joseph Armstrong had five sons and one daughter. One son only, B. E. Armstrong, survived him. He lived with this son, for the last fourteen years of his life on his farm, located in Upper Merion township, Montgomery county; there Joseph Armstrong died in 1844, aged 82 years.

His remains repose in the Norriton church graveyard.

Returning to Ephraim Armstrong, father of Joseph, it was said, that he lived about twenty-six years, after the close of the Revolutionary war, and was held in high repute, as one of the community in which he dwelt. He was a strict Calvinistic Presbyterian, uncompromising in his religious convictions, decided in his actions and purposes, yet thoughtful and charitable towards those who differed with him.

Withal, he was kind and benevolent at heart, as he had opportunity, yet regarded as rigid and austere in the training of his family.

As was customary with old men of that time, he wore a red and white striped cap, manufactured out of silk; from the crown of which hung a large tassel.

He died at the old family homestead, Norriton, November 6, 1804, aged 74 years. Much respected and lamented, he was buried in the old Norriton Presbyterian graveyard.

To his memory it may be added, that he was one of the most devoted and useful members of this church. The writer long years ago, listened to commendatory words from an aged lady, who spoke of him, as the faithful Elder, always ready to extend the kindly smile, and the friendly grasp of the hand, at the services upon each recurring Sabbath. He also contributed generously to support the church, and willingly gave his services as precentor, or leader of the singing, for many years.

The location of the old Armstrong farm, containing about 100 acres, was near the church, on the southwest side of Manatawny road; now, Germantown and Perkiomen turnpike, opposite to the renowned David Rittenhouse farm.

This place was owned, 1835-45, by one Woodley; later Wanner, Anderson, Freas, Bean, Miller and now Jos. Cassel.

The Thompson family evidently were early associated with the old Norriton church. Occasionally, we find the name printed Thomson.

William Penn by his deed, as the first proprietary of Pennsylvania, on the 20th of April, 1689, conveyed to Major Robert Thompson 10,000 acres of land in Chester county, Pa.; covering a large part of Vincent and Coventry townships. By his will 14th April, 1691, he devised all the said land to his son Joseph Thompson, the son of his son Joseph, for life, etc.

It is thought that some near of kin (perhaps a brother of Major Thompson) about the same time chose Montgomery county and Norriton as his future home. They came from the north of Ireland, and were distinctively old stock Presbyterians.

The graveyard gives evidence that of the Thompsons there were several in Norriton, as residents, during the eighteenth century. The families of Archibald, Samuel, Robert, Joseph, Moses, and again Archibald, were in their day and generation well known. Their farms were chiefly in Norriton, and perhaps one in Worcester township. James Thompson, who came from Ireland, about 1755, died in Pottstown, Pa., in 1782, aged 65 years.

A distinguished citizen was the Hon. Charles Thompson. He was born in Ireland in 1730, came over in 1741, and lived in Lower Merion, where he died in 1824, aged 96 years. He was a strict Presbyterian, and his remains were interred in the Presbyterian graveyard, near his residence; but afterwards, removed to Laurel Hill Cemetery, Philadelphia.

His life, and the active part he took in the American Revolution, not only exhibited the manliness and courage of the Irish character, but he became conspicuous in our national councils; having been the Secretary of nearly all the sessions of our Revolutionary Congress.

The following paragraphs will furnish items of much interest, referring to the Norris family, also to one Archibald Thompson.



The first of the Norris family, distinguished as among the early settlers of Pennsylvania, and of whom any record has been preserved, was Thomas Norris, a merchant, of London, England, who had gained the Society of Friends, soon after the rise of that sect.

He emigrated about 1678, with his wife and large family, to the island of Jamaica, West Indies; and perished in the great earthquake, which destroyed Port Royal, on the 7th of June, 1692.

Isaac Norris (said to have been the ninth child of the above named Thomas Norris) and founder of the family in Pennsylvania, was born in the city of London, July 26, 1671, and was about seven years old, when the family removed to Jamaica.

In 1690 his father sent him to Pennsylvania by a sailing vessel, to examine the country, preparatory to the family settling there.

He returned to Jamaica, to learn the distressing fact, that his father and many others had perished in the earthquake. In 1693 he came back to Philadelphia (then only about ten years settled) with a fortune scarcely more than £100, and entered into mercantile business; rising rapidly to be one of the colony's wealthiest and most successful merchants.

Purchasing, together with Trent, the manor of Williamstادت in 1704, and later, having renounced political distinction, in 1709 called to a seat in the Governor's Council, 1712 elected Speaker of the Assembly, holding also many conspicuous official positions, he died suddenly, while attending Friends meeting in Germantown, Philadelphia, June 4, 1735, in his 65th year.

Charles Norris, son of the Councillor, and who married Eunice Gardner, at Nantucket, Mass., July 4, 1793, died on the farm, Norris Hall, Montgomery county, Pa., Dec. 24, 1813.

He and his wife, together with their children and children's children, are interred in the old family burial ground attached to said farm.

This property (1894) is now in possession of John Schrack, son of the late Charles Norris Schrack, and great-grandson of the last named Charles Norris.

John Schrack, Sr., born in Upper Providence, November 10, 1787, and who died, July 21, 1872, married Mary, daughter of Charles Norris last named; and who was a lineal descendant of the family named Norris, after whom both Norriton township and Norristown are named.

The old farm, with continental stone buildings, about 100 years old (which stands in the place of the log house of two centuries ago) has long been known as "Norris Hall;" and is a part of the patrimonial estate, which comprised several hundred acres on the west side of the Schuylkill river, south of Jeffersonville, and extending to Port Kennedy.

In bygone years, conversing at sundry times with John Schrack, Sr., and his sons David, Charles Norris, and John Schrack, Jr., M. D., many interesting items were recited, referring to the days long gone by.

A little north of the land mentioned above, about 1730, and originally owned by them, was a tract, also, called "the Norris farm."

In 1758, this Norris farm house, a roomy house, built of stone, had been converted into a tavern. It was leased subsequently to different tenants, and became a convenient stopping place for the increasing travel on the main road to Reading. It stood at a point of land, being the junction of the old Egypt and Ridge roads, and for a time was commonly called the Egypt Inn. In later years, it was called the Jeffersonville tavern; by which name it is known, up to this writing. As a traditional item, it was currently reported, that a District Court was held here, and a secure lockup was built in the basement for temporary convicts; the remaining cell walls of which were to be seen there in later years.

In 1766 Archibald Thompson was the landlord; and in his day was respected for his accommodating spirit as well as his family antecedents.

In 1776 said Thompson was assessed for eighty acres of land. This was during the exciting period of the Revolutionary war; but he continued as the owner and host of this public house, while at the same time he was on duty as an esteemed

Colonel, in the patriotic army, assisting most devotedly in defending American principles.

On the 1st of November, 1779, Archibald Thompson died. He was comparatively a young man, and formerly of a strong physical frame; but his arduous and earnest personal efforts, during the war, were often days of danger, exposure, and sacrifice; and it was thought these things possibly hastened his death.

His lineage was of Presbyterian Scotch-Irish stock; and probably he was the son of Archibald Thompson, Sr., who died in 1745; they both lie buried in the old Norriton Presbyterian church ground.

After 1779 Archibald Thompson's widow, Hannah, continued to keep the Egypt Inn (now Jeffersonville) for a number of years; for in 1784 she is still recognized as the proprietor.

Returning for a moment to "war times," one beautiful autumn day, September 7, 1777, a company of British soldiers appeared, and without any notice, yet with the display of huzzas and apparent malice, they deliberately set fire to the property, and burned the hotel and its contents, leaving only the blackened stone walls. As a miserable and most unsatisfactory plea, it had been reported that a certain noted rebel was interested in the ownership of the property.

As a result of this disaster, in after years, the widow, Hannah Thompson, received £870 from the State, as compensation for her loss.

A public vendue was extensively advertised to take place, at Archibald Thompson's Hotel, in February, 1777. It is not known with certainty whether at that time any sale took place. But the following September 17th the whole plantation, consisting of five hundred and forty-three acres, including and reaching southward from the tavern property just named, all the way to the site of the present Norristown, was sold by Charles Norris to John Bull. The latter was formerly a native of Providence township, having near family connections in Chester county.

He was likewise a colonel in the Revolutionary army; had been a justice-of-the-peace; and was considered in his day a brainy, intelligent man, of marked executive ability. Benjamin Thompson was doubtless his only son, who died April 6, 1829, aged fifty-three years. His wife, Elizabeth, also died in Norristown, December 28, 1878, aged a hundred and two years, one month and fourteen days.

In 1779 Colonel Bull sold the plantation to Dr. William Smith, Provost of the University of Pennsylvania, for £6,000.

Soon after, Colonel Bull removed from Pennsylvania, and purchased lands in Berkely county, Virginia. He lived there with his family for a number of years; and report has since confirmed the statement that he died there.

The fact is well known, that Montgomery county was erected in 1784, out of Philadelphia county. William Moore Smith, son of Dr. Smith, had a town site laid out on part of this plantation in 1785; and later, public buildings were erected. The growth, and subsequent history of Norristown, reveals the excellent judgment and forecast of Dr. Smith.

It seems relevant to our narrative, to relate some items pertaining to others, who were early interested in the Norriton church. Of such were the Knox family.

David Knox, was born in County Antrim, Ireland, 1700; and died 1780. He emigrated in 1732; and settled on a farm, located on the township line, west of Washington Square, in Whitpain township. This farm remained in possession of the Knox family, until 1862, one hundred and thirty years. Captain Andrew Knox, son of David, was born in County Antrim, as above, 1728, emigrated 1732, and died in 1807. Andrew Knox, the second, was born August 13, 1773, died October 3, 1844. He had two sons, Thomas P. Knox and Andrew Jackson Knox, now both deceased. The former resided in Norriton, the latter in Plymouth township.

About the same time John McCrea settled in Norriton, three-fourths of a mile southeast of the church, on the turnpike. Adjoining this, north, he also had a farm. He died March 3, 1823. On the first, for many years afterward, Fran-

cis Burnside resided. The place is now owned by Albert Pawling. On the second farm, many years ago, was a pottery; and Joseph McCrea lived thereon. Some of the family settled in Norristown; a son, named William H. McCrea, lived in Philadelphia, as did his aged mother, Catharine McCrea, who died in Philadelphia, September 5, 1856. They lie buried at Norriton grave-yard.

About 1798, when strife and turbulence prevailed in Ireland, John Patterson came to this country in the same ship with Robert Hamill, and together settled for a while in Norristown. They alike came from County Antrim, Province of Ulster, North Ireland. They were each descended from genuine Presbyterian parentage, having an excellent family record, and lived useful lives. The two united in a business partnership for two or three years in Norristown. After that, Mr. Patterson removed to Philadelphia. The writer, as a school-boy, remembers him very well. His place of business, as a wholesale grocer, was at the southeast corner of Fourth and Race streets; and also, recalls his regular attendance at the services in the Second Presbyterian Church, which stood, in 1835, at northwest corner of Third and Arch streets. John Patterson married the daughter of Colonel Christopher Stuart, of Norriton; and Robert Hamill married the daughter of Colonel Andrew Todd, of the Trappe, Upper Providence. Colonel Todd was a soldier of the Revolution. John Patterson died in Philadelphia, August 20, 1850, in the eighty-second year of his age.

Joseph Patterson was the eldest son, long well-known and highly esteemed in Philadelphia, where for years he was the competent and much respected cashier of the Western Bank of that city. His residence was at Chestnut Hill. Our school-days recall pleasant memories of another son and brother of Joseph, viz., Henry Stuart Patterson, who became a successful physician in Philadelphia. He died comparatively young, and was buried in the Norriton grave-yard; but some years afterwards his remains were removed and interred in Laurel Hill Cemetery, Philadelphia.

About 1720-'30, much earlier than those preceding, one Robert Porter, emigrated from the north of Ireland, and settled in Worcester township, near the Norriton line.

General Andrew Porter was his son, born in 1743. On the breaking out of the Revolutionary war he offered his services to Congress, received a commission as Captain of Marines, and was later engaged in the battles of Trenton, Princeton and Brandywine.

At the dreary, suffering encampment at Valley Forge, during the winter of 1777-'8, he was major of a regiment of artillery. Several of his sons became distinguished; David R. Porter, governor of Pennsylvania, and General James M. Porter, a member of the Assembly, and Secretary of War, under President Tyler.

Judge Thomas Burnside, afterwards of Centre county, and Francis Burnside, of Norriton township, were sons of William, who came from Scotland, about 1780-'90, and settled on a farm near Fairview, in Lower Providence township. He adhered to the old continental costume of looped-up hat, straight coat, buckskin breeches, with long stockings, and large silver shoe buckles. At Judge Burnside's residence, in Bellefonte, Centre county, the writer spent many pleasant visits, in 1842-'3. While at times, brusque and outspoken, he was remarkably penetrating, and as a conversationalist, exceedingly entertaining. Governor David R. Porter, in 1841, appointed him judge of Montgomery county, and by the same governor, in 1845, he was set apart to the bench of the Supreme Court.

The writer is in possession of a manuscript, giving a partial genealogical history of Daniel Evans, who married Eleanor, daughter of David Rittenhouse.

Daniel Evans, was among the first settlers in Norriton, after the Penn grant. While of Quaker proclivity, and a model man, yet Evans was not of the strictest of the sect; exhibiting much liberality and charity, as to his religious opinions.

The writer has also a number of interesting items concerning John Baker and his descendants. He was an ingeni-

ous worker in iron, steel, and other metals, and was a resident of Lower Providence township. His farm lay adjacent to that of Ephraim Armstrong, previously referred to; although in a different township; both bounded on the same line, about a mile apart. His father was a native of Germany; and a very early settler in this vicinity.

During the Revolutionary war, Mr. Baker rendered very efficient aid to the Whig cause, by his handicraft, in the work of making and repairing suitable fire-arms. Mr. Baker lived to a great old age; being nearly a centenarian; and died about 1820. His wife was a Roberts of Welsh extraction, whose parents resided in the neighborhood.

Their children were Samuel, John, Arnold, Catherine, Mary, Hannah, Rebecca and Elizabeth.

Arnold died at the old homestead on the Germantown and Perkiomen turnpike, near the present Hartranft station, Stony Creek railroad, about 1858.

Justly and deservedly (did our space allow), we might also refer to Colonel Christopher Stuart, Dr. James McFarland, Abraham Lefevre, Dr. Robert Shannon, Andrew Supplee, Archibald Darrah and others, all of Norriton, and among the early settlers.

Following in later years were the Hamills, Stinsons, McEwens, Keysers, Craigs, Shearers, Gettys, Heisers, Taney, McHargs, Bosserts, Powels, Snyders, and other names, representing reputable families, of whom the present generation give abundant evidence of their honorable lineage and usefulness as worthy citizens.

"What a changing world is this,  
Void of all substantial bliss;  
All we see beneath the sun,  
In successive changes run;  
But, our Jesus, proves the same;  
Endless blessings on His name."

A final reference to the old Norriton church is made in the following paragraph. In 1893, quite extensive, yet needful repairs were again made to the building. A new shingle roof, new floor, new ceiling and some new pieces of furniture,

were added, making substantial improvements for a generation to come. Beside, the stone walls of the house as well as the walls of the burial ground, were pointed and put in good condition. The cost was \$301.68; contributed willingly by friends of the institution.

Occasional religious services are held by Rev. C. R. Brodhead, and a summer Sabbath School convenes, having about one hundred scholars.

As it has been necessary to refer largely to the Providence church in this paper, the narrative would not be complete without furnishing a brief history of the Jeffersonville church, which was directly an outgrowth of the former.

The old Norriton, Providence and Jeffersonville churches were located within about two miles of each other, and while it is true that nearly all the Presbyterian churches of Eastern Pennsylvania have legitimately descended from the old Norriton, yet, in a peculiar manner, this trio of churches bears a close relationship to each other.

Immediately following the unfortunate division, which occurred in the Presbyterian body in 1837, the rural churches soon partook of the spirit manifested by the city congregations; some taking sides with the Old School, while others leaned towards the New School parties.

At once the Presbyteries were known as "New" and "Old School," in their tenets, theology and teachings.

A strange coincidence may be mentioned, that it was about one hundred years since a similar and most memorable division crept in, and separated the Norriton and Providence congregations.

Now, the division takes place in the Providence church. For several years strife, complainings, bickerings and bitterness fanned the embers of suspicion and dislike, lurking in the minds of the membership, until April, 1843; when the hidden fires broke out into a conflagration, and the eruption was heralded abroad. Persistently a division was called for. Rev. Sylvanus Haight was the pastor at the time. A man in the prime of life, of good attainments as a scholar, and of excellent



repute as a minister, he used all reasonable means to re-establish peace and good will, but failed. The predilections of Rev. Haight favored the New School system; in company with such distinguished men as Revs. Albert Barnes, Ezra Stiles Ely, Anson Rood, Adair, Brown, Emerson, John Patton, Joel Parker and others; and indeed for two or three years preceding, many who were prominent in the congregation accepted the New School theology. Later, however, the majority of the Providence congregation decided peremptorily to adhere to the Old School Presbytery, which at once instigated a separation of friends and kindred, resulting in the founding of the Jeffersonville church, whose membership allied themselves with the Third (New School) Presbytery of Philadelphia.

In October, 1843, the Jeffersonville Presbyterian church was organized, comprising in its membership those who had withdrawn from the Lower Providence church. In 1844, the year following, a stone building, rough cast 36 by 54 feet, was erected, having a basement Sunday School room. Rev. Charles F. Diver was the first pastor. It stood on an ineligible place on the north side of the Ridge turnpike on a flat, wet piece of ground, about three-fourths of a mile west of the village. It was regarded as an unfavorable, isolated situation, and, becoming somewhat dilapidated, was taken down in June, 1875. In the autumn of 1874 a new location for a new church was sought for, and prudently selected in the centre of the village, and by a unanimous vote of the congregation, May 17, 1875, the name of the congregation was changed to the "Centennial Presbyterian Church, of Jeffersonville, Pa.," and a charter accordingly obtained. The eligible lot on which the church is built, was purchased from Benjamin and Elizabeth Custer on very favorable terms.

The entire beautiful plot of ground on which the church building stands, including also the cemetery lot, comprises about three acres. This, in addition to other beneficent gifts, was donated by Mr. and Mrs. Francis Whiting, of Jeffersonville.

On the 1st day of June, 1875, ground was broken for the foundation of the building. On July 3d the corner-stone was



CENTENNIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH,  
JEFFERSONVILLE.



laid, and on the following day, July 4th, Sunday afternoon, suitable religious services were held recognizing the event.

On Sunday, January 2, 1876, the chapel was formally dedicated to the service of Almighty God. The pastor, Rev. Charles Collins, who began his work in said church, November, 1866, preached a dedicatory sermon from Psalm 122, first verse.

The new church building is of gray sand-stone, pointed work, gothic style, 50 by 110 feet, having a stone tower 70 feet in height, with handsome spire reaching nearly one hundred and fifty feet, and cost about \$25,000, being free of debt.

In point of location, it is unexcelled, and in beauty of architecture, as well as furniture and all the modern appointments, it is not surpassed in the county.

The church was finally opened and dedicated October 4th, 1876; three large congregation being in attendance morning, afternoon and evening.

The building was erected under the supervision of the pastor, Rev. Charles Collins, who would render a grateful testimony to the helpful services of James Shaw, David Schrack, M. D., Francis Whiting and others.

The inquiry has been made, why was the name of the corporation changed? We answer, primarily, because the building was chiefly erected during the Centennial year. But, there are historical reasons for the name.

In the beginning of December, 1777, General Howe surprised the American camp at Whitemarsh, Montgomery county.

The following day, that part of the army under General Washington, started to march toward Valley Forge, and owing to the severity of the weather, were seriously delayed; a portion of them tarrying on this very ground, at the time being wood-land.

Others took shelter in the ancient stone house, occupying the site of the Jeffersonville Inn, while others, of a division which had been hindered and exhausted (some of whom were suffering and sick), were quartered in the old Norriton church.

Tradition has it that some of the soldiers died at both places named.

On the 11th of December, 1777, Washington finally went into winter quarters at Valley Forge. History records the fact that the condition, as well as the prolonged sufferings of many of the soldiers, was simply indescribable.

On the march from Whitemarsh many were without shoes, their feet being bare on the hard frozen ground, and therefore were severely cut and bruised.

Upon the very spot where the new church was built, while digging up the earth in 1875, at depth of about two feet, some laborers were surprised by finding a coin of Spanish silver money, bearing date 1774, and which was probably lost by some one of the Revolutionary soldiers, while tenting there, one hundred years before.

Among other relics, this piece of money was deposited in the corner-stone of the new building.

Digressing for a moment, it is worthy of note, as a published fact, that on October 14, 1894, the two hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the organization of the First Christ Presbyterian Church of Hempstead, Long Island, was celebrated in an appropriate manner. This confirms that Presbyterianism had come with the pioneers, as early as 1644.

In concluding this history, which has been of intense interest to myself, it is probable that some imperfections and errors may be discovered.

It is no easy task, at this late day, to obtain the desired information; neither is it a trivial work, to arrange systematically, and narrate the incidents, of which so many have largely sunk into oblivion. But, my thought has been, that in future years it may prove useful and valuable, by exhibiting the traits of religious character, as well as the fidelity and integrity of our forefathers; and we shall hope, too, that it may awaken a zeal, and stimulate others, to grasp any and every opportunity to note the passing events, and record the same, for the benefit of coming generations.

Some may be disposed to criticise the noticeable feature—that so much of this narrative has been interspersed with correlative statements, pertaining to the first emigrants and early settlers, not directly pertinent to the old Norriton church; but it will be granted that all this is valuable, and will compensate the reader, because it furnishes a compilation of traditional and historical facts, calculated to confirm the premises we have taken, as to the Holland settlers, and the antiquity of the Norriton place of worship.

As intimated in the opening page, that although my attention was turned to this old church almost sixty years ago, yet, I desire to add, that the leading items on the Norriton church herewith published, are largely extracts, traditional and historical, from three discourses which the writer delivered in the Centennial Church of Jeffersonville, in July, 1876.

Reviewing the preceding pages, at least two valuable lessons may be learned. First: That in every age of the world's history, the true people of God have their trials. No circumstances will exempt them. Tribulations, in some form, seem to be the appointed lot of man; and, therefore, there are times when neither wealth, eminence, nor education can purchase deliverance.

Hence, our fathers had their perplexities. To them, oft-times, these things proved blessings. Trials made them heroic, enduring soldiers. They persevered, they conquered! They grew to be stalwart men, ready for any emergency.

As a result of their faith, their hardships and endurance, they have left us a rich legacy of Christian character, in testimony of their trust.

The second lesson is, that strifes and contentions are always unprofitable; but especially among Christians.

The result of the first great dissension in the Presbyterian church, alluded to in these pages, occurred in 1740, and lasted until 1758; for seventeen years. But really it was not entirely subdued until 1788, or nearly half a century.

Who can imagine the heart-burnings, the bitterness, the

separations of relatives and friends, and the lasting dishonor to the household of faith, and the cause of religion.

The results of the later division in the Presbyterian church, 1837, extended through more than a quarter of a century, before a reconciliation took place. What a dreary retrospect these statements bring before the memory!

Finally, reverting for a moment to the old Norriton church, and in imagination fixing our eye thereon, how changed the scene!

Long, long ago, the old gray-haired preacher's voice has ceased; the old hymns and psalms of praise have ended; the old elders, John McCrea and Stephen Porter, and others, have left the earth; the voices of the worshipping congregation are all hushed in silence!

The curious old pulpit, and quaint, high-back pews, have been removed. And in these later years, the surrounding forests have fallen beneath the woodman's axe; the old cedar trees have greatly diminished in number; the grand old English Lombardy poplars, once so tall and thrifty, lining the opposite side of the road, have all decayed, and are gone!

But, the old stone meeting house, stands, as it were, alone, and isolated; yet a fitting monument of the fathers; and the old grave-yard, the quiet resting place of the dead, even though many of the earlier memorial stones are obliterated or entirely gone, seem to whisper to the pilgrim traveler, that upon all things here, it is written, "passing away! passing away!"

Time *was*, is past; thou canst not it recall;  
Time *is*, thou hast; employ the portion small;  
Time *future*, is not; and may never be;  
Time present, is the only time for thee!

*Philadelphia, November 1, 1894.*

## AN EARLY TEACHER OF LANGUAGES AND MUSIC IN NORRISTOWN.

By William J. Buck.

Charles Fortman was a German by birth and came from the valley of the Rhine, probably Alsace or the vicinity of Cologne. He was a graduate of one of the universities there, and could speak Latin, French, German and English, besides having a familiarity with Dutch, Flemish and Italian. The date of his arrival in this country is unknown to us, and we therefore shall at once enter on most undoubted authority in our possession in confirmation of what shall be hereafter stated.

In the Norristown "Herald," of April 15th, 1803, may be seen an advertisement from which we have copied this extract: "The subscriber, master of music, begs leave to inform the public that he has engaged a private room at Michael Broadt's house, where he gives instruction on the piano forte at three dollars per month. At the same time he offers to give private lessons in the French and Latin languages. His employers may rest assured, that on his side no pains shall be spared in order to give them full satisfaction. To those having a knowledge only of the English or of the German, and wishing to improve themselves respectively therein, he will also give instructions. Should a sufficient number of children be made up he is not averse to open a German school."

In establishing himself for this purpose in Norristown and likely to some extent for the surrounding section, we possess sufficient information that it must have been for some considerable time, continuing likely to 1810, if not down to 1813, and probably somewhat earlier there than the spring of 1803. At that time the place contained only about fifty houses, the larger portion either log or frame, and one story



high. The Academy had not been built, nor was it finished until two years later. But one school-house was then there, built of stone, erected some nineteen years previously, of which we have given a description in our third published history of Norristown, page 762, of the late large work on the county. We are thus led to perceive that in so small a place, with a sparse and scattered surrounding population, it was no small affair to succeed as a teacher of languages and music; and during a period regarded, too, from a modern standpoint as somewhat rude or uncultured.

What ever difficulties he may have had to contend with in his coming to Norristown in the beginning, Professor Fortman secured two influential patrons. One was Gen. Francis Swaine, who at this time was Prothonotary and Clerk of Courts, which position he continued to hold until in January, 1809. A few years later he was elected the first Burgess of Norristown. His wife was Mary, the daughter of the Rev. Henry M. Muhlenberg, of the Trappe, and who was one of the pupils on the piano. Michael Broadt, who was at this time one of the most enterprising citizens of the place, was an educated German, who had served in the Revolutionary army as a ffer in Captain John Cope's company, from Philadelphia county, in 1778, and the following year if not longer. About 1799 he removed from Worcester township to Norristown on a purchase of thirty acres, located on the present Main street, below Stony creek, where he kept the New Moon tavern, and carried on in addition a powder mill, plaster mill and carding mill on the same tract of land. He was one of the founders and first trustees of the Academy. His daughter Sarah, who was also in his piano class, married, September 20th, 1806, William Chain, of Norristown. What time after 1807 Mr. Broadt died we do not know, but his son, Daniel, had succeeded him in business in 1811. On inquiry we have been informed that the "New Moon" was on the site of the long and well-known stand of the Pennsylvania Farmer, and where, in the spring of 1803, Mr. Fortman had advertised he had secured a private room and taught languages and music.

Captain Nicholas Buck, the founder of Bucksville, had several estates to settle in Upper Salford township and vicinity, between the years 1807 and 1814, and among these as executor, that of his father-in-law, John Eck. This frequently called him to Norristown, and stopping at the New Moon he became acquainted with Mr. Fortman. This led to results that had they not transpired we feel certain this would have remained unwritten. Captain B. having a desire to have his children taught the higher branches under private tuition induced Professor Fortman to come to his house and open a class to which he would give his influence to enlarge. Thus some time in 1813, or the following year, he located himself there and continued for some time. He had contemplated entering into the mercantile business and with this in view was desirous of having his son Jacob, who was then aged fourteen year (the writer's father) specially educated to become his chief clerk. He taught here we know besides languages and music, geography, mathematics, penmanship and book-keeping.

Desiring to be brief, we will now add that the instruction books of Mr. Fortman on vocal and instrumental music were all in manuscript and prepared by himself for his pupils. Two of these have descended to us from his pupil and show that he was a splendid penman, some of the music and writing resembling steel engraving. One of those books has this inscription: "Instructions, or the Elements of Music, adapted for the Piano Forte, Harpsichord, etc., for the use of Jacob Buck, of Nockamixon township, Bucks County, by Charles Fortman," and bears in it the date of July 25th, 1815. The songs and writing therein are written in Latin, German and English, besides some Italian, sufficient to prove that he was an accomplished scholar as well as musician. One matter therein has impressed us, the remarkable close resemblance of his English writing to those of his pupils, Jacob E. and Samuel E. Buck, a little later in their father's store books, still preserved in the family.

About one half of the contents of the two books is confined to sacred music, the remainder constituting quite a variety;

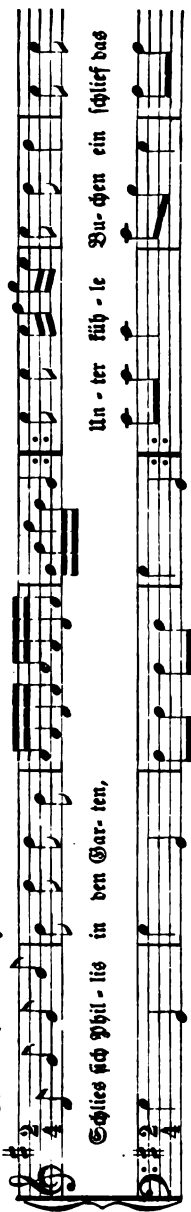
as marches, hornpipes, reels, quicksteps, waltzes, jigs, besides a mention of allemandes, serenades and country dances. A minuet therein is so quaint a piece we entertain no doubt as to its being centuries old. There are several probably of American origin, as Washington's March and "The Jersey Blues." The latter was a very popular reel between the years 1800 and 1820. At the Bucksville Centennial celebration held June 11th, 1892, Washington's March, the Flowers of Edinburgh and Die Hirten were played from those books on the Estey organ by John T. Buck. The latter we had engraved for the recent History of the Buck Family from a reduced fac-simile and will give an idea of Mr. Fortman's penmanship over three-quarters of a century ago. We believe that this has not been heretofore published in this country. It is a humorous German song relating to an incident in rural life and is introduced here to illustrate our subject.

Charles Fortman's name is found in Captain Buck's store books down to the year 1824, after which we have lost all traces of him. To help to do honor to his memory at the above celebration, Charles Austin Buck, now for several years holding the responsible position of experimental chemist for the extensive iron and steel works in South Bethlehem, read a paper on "The Bucksville Piano Class of 1814-15," prepared for that occasion. We entertain no doubt that to him belongs the credit of being the first teacher of classes on the piano in Bucks and Montgomery counties, and he deserves some notice as an early instructor in the higher departments of knowledge, then but little taught. Our present school system had not for some time thereafter been introduced.

NOTE.—Application was recently made to the author, by the Secretary of the Historical Society of Montgomery County, for a copy of his paper read before them February 22d, 1883, with a view to its publication. It having been revised with additions was published in 1887 under the heading of "The Traditions and Wonders of Horse-heaven," in a volume entitled "Local Sketches and Legends Pertaining to Bucks and Montgomery Counties." In consequence the present article was suggested and especially prepared in its stead.

# Die Hirten.

1 Ich - ren Hir - ten zu er - war - ten



Un - ter füh - le Du - chen ein schlief das



2 Ihre Mutter kam ganz leise  
Nach der alten Mutter-weise,  
Herzgeislischen ach wie fein  
Gehst das Mädchen schläft allein.

3 Diejem guten Hirten Weibe  
Kapsete das Herz im Leibe,  
Denn von solcher Trümmigkeit  
Ist kein Mädchen weit und breit.

4 Nimm den mütterlichen Segen  
Deiner theuren Unschuld wegen,  
Hundert tausend Küße hin,  
Unschuld's-volle Schläferin!

5 Von den warmen Mutter-küssen,  
Ihrem Schlummer bald entrißen,  
Wies das Mädchen: Ach Damm!  
Waram kommst du doch so spät.



## FRIES' REBELLION.

By Lewis R. Harley, Ph. D.

In the early days of our political history, three events occurred which threatened our Republican institutions with destruction. The national sentiment was not immediately established by the Articles of Confederation and the Constitution. The spirit of nationality developed very slowly. At first there were only faint glimpses of the "more perfect Union." The Constitution was adopted by means of a series of compromises, and to form the Union different theories contradictory to each other were recognized and were conceded to be true. The people had been accustomed to local government, and although general matters were vested in the Continental Congress, yet this body was, to a great extent, merely advisory. They erroneously looked upon the National Congress as a mere successor of the Continental Congress, and with but little more power. The spirit of national self-consciousness was not present in an active form, and it is but natural that when the people felt the first pressure of Congressional Government upon them they should regard it as a form of tyranny.

The first resistance to the authorities of government is known as Shays' Rebellion, which occurred in Western Massachusetts in 1786. It appears that the poor farmers of Western Massachusetts were loaded with more taxes than those of any other State. Their debts were enormous, averaging more than two hundred dollars apiece. Having no means to pay their debts, many were sued and thrown into prison. They became desperate, and Daniel Shays, himself a confirmed debtor, raised an army of two thousand farmers. They surrounded Worcester and Springfield, and put a stop to all law

suits for debt. A strong military force suppressed them, and Shays fled into New Hampshire. This occurred in the days of the Articles of Confederation, and the weakness of the old system of government is well illustrated. The test of national power is the ability to lay and collect taxes.

The Whiskey Insurrection, which occurred in Western Pennsylvania in 1794, is another good example of resistance to Federal authority. Congress had resolved that an allowance of an additional sum be made to the army to compensate for the depreciation of its pay. This was distributed among the States, and the excise was to be used for the purpose. Many people in Western Pennsylvania were Scotch Irish. They had heard of the exactions and oppressions in the old country under the excise laws, and how houses were opened and searched by excise officers. They remembered also the resistance to the Stamp Act and the other British measures, and they rose up in insurrection, preventing the officers from collecting the tax. It was only by the appearance of an army of 12,959 men that they were subdued into obedience to the laws.

The third form of opposition to Federal authority is known in history as Fries' Rebellion. The quarrel with France in 1798 assumed the form of active hostilities. James McHenry, Secretary of War, began to organize the army. The President was given power to borrow \$5,000,000, and \$2,000,000 more was to be raised by a new and odious tax. The tax was direct, and fell upon houses and slaves. For every slave between twelve and fifty years, fifty cents was to be required of the owner. For every house, valued at from two hundred to five hundred dollars, twenty cents was required for every hundred dollars; while houses valued from five hundred to one thousand dollars, thirty cents per hundred was required. There were few slaves in Pennsylvania, and, as a result, the tax fell mainly on houses and lands. The value of the houses was determined by counting the number and measuring the size of the windows. Houses with few and small windows were usually rated lower, and in order to save

the tax, the farmers usually had small windows put in their houses, with panes no larger than eight by ten inches in dimensions.

Pennsylvania's share of the tax was \$237,177.71. To collect this amount the State was divided into nine districts, with the following collectors: First district, Israel Wheeler; second district, Paul Zantzenger; third district, Seth Chapman; fourth district, Collingson Reed; fifth district, Jacob Eyerly; sixth district, Michael Schmyser; seventh district, Thomas Grant, Jr.; eighth district, Samuel Davidson; ninth district, Isaac Jenkinson.

The third district was composed of Bucks and Montgomery counties, and the fifth district of Northampton, Luzerne and Wayne counties. The assessors and collectors of the tax found very little difficulty and opposition until the eastern part of the State was reached. It was in the counties of Bucks, Montgomery, and that part of Northampton that afterwards became Lehigh county, almost within sight of the Federal capital, that the opposition became alarming, arising from the fact that the German people did not understand the law. Many a farmer knew nothing of the tax law until the assessor came around. The people remembered the old hearth tax of Germany, and they thought the measure was a revival of it. They were Republicans in politics, and were determined that the tax should not be collected. Women set dogs on the assessors, and poured scalding water on them when they attempted to measure the windows. The assessor being unequal to the task in Bucks county, two others joined him in his efforts to enforce the law. They counted the windows of fifty houses in Milford township and went to the tavern for dinner. John Fries entered and forbade them to go any further. The assessors finished their work, however, and were about to make the last measurements of the day, when they heard a great shout and saw Fries and four assistants in pursuit. The assessors got to Quakertown and found it in possession of a mob. At this place two of the assessors were taken.



John Fries was a farmer's son, born in Hatfield township, near Lansdale, Montgomery county, in 1750. He learned the cooper trade, and in 1770 married Mary Brunner, of Whitmarsh township. The Brunner homestead was on the Morris road, below Franklinville. In 1775, Fries moved to Lower Milford township, Bucks county. He saw service in the Revolution, having been enlisted in the Lower Milford Associated Company in 1775. He also helped to put down the Whiskey Insurrection in Western Pennsylvania. After settling in Bucks county, Fries became a traveling auctioneer. In those days the auction business was an important affair. The stores did an auction business, and Fries traveled from village to village engaged in this employment.

He and his dog, Whiskey, were familiar figures in every country store. He could speak German fluently, and in his rounds had excellent opportunity to denounce the tax. Being so well known, his words had great influence, and he naturally became a leader of the opposition party. In February, 1798, a meeting was held at the tavern near the point of union of the four counties, Montgomery, Northampton (now Lehigh), Berks and Bucks. A paper, pledging the signers to resist the window tax, received fifty-two names. Fries pledged himself to raise seven hundred men to resist the tax. In the meantime, the Marshal in Northampton county was serving warrants and arresting persons who would not pay the tax. Those who tried to serve the subpoenas were driven away. The Federal courts then issued warrants, and more than thirty were arrested and confined in the Sun Tavern, Bethlehem. These arrests set the counties all in flame. Fries, at the head of a mob, began the march to Bethlehem. At the bridge across the Lehigh they met another body on the same errand. They proceeded to the tavern, and the Marshal was commanded to set the prisoners free, threatening to burn the town in case of resistance. Having no other alternative the men were released.

The government became greatly alarmed at these proceedings. The President issued a proclamation commanding the rioters to disperse. He also called upon the Governor

and militia of Pennsylvania to assist in maintaining order. Governor Mifflin issued a proclamation March 14, 1799, and on March 20th, James McHenry, Secretary of War, ordered out the cavalry from Philadelphia, Chester, Montgomery, Bucks and Lancaster counties. Under the command of General MacPherson, the militia and cavalry encamped at Springhouse, Montgomery county. This is an old settlement, and as early as 1701 a road led from it to the city. Here General MacPherson issued a proclamation to the rioters. It was a lengthy exposition of the nature of the Constitution and the extent of Federal powers. A minister named Helmuth, who claimed to have some influence, also addressed them. Proceeding to Quakertown they began to make arrests and scour the country in search of the rioters.

After releasing the men at Bethlehem, Fries returned to his old employment, and was arrested while holding a vendue. At the cry of soldiers he leaped to the ground and fled to a swamp. He was arrested, and, with some thirty others, was taken to Philadelphia for trial.

The following is a full list of the persons thus arrested:

*Treason.*

John Fries,  
John Eberhard,  
Jacob Huber,  
John Huber,  
Frederick Heaney,  
Christopher Socks,  
Jacob Klein, Sr.,  
Jacob Klein, Jr.,  
David Klein,  
Abraham Braith,  
John Getman,  
George Getman,  
William Getman,  
Daniel Weidner,

*Misdemeanor.*

Aaron Samsel,  
Peter Hamberg,  
Abraham Strong,  
Peter Heidrick,  
Jacob Huber,  
Henry Huber,  
Michael Breich,  
Abraham Heidrick,  
Henry Mumbower,  
George Mumbower,  
Peter Hoyer,  
Peter Gabel,  
Jacob Gabel,  
Daniel Gabel.

The witnesses were George Mitchell and William Thomas. The case of Fries was called up April 30, 1799. His counsel consisted of Alexander J. Dallas and Messrs. Ewing and

Lewis. Attorney Rawle and Samuel Sitgreave were the counsel for the United States. Samuel Sitgreave had a remarkable career. He was born in Philadelphia, March 16, 1764, was educated at a classical school, studied law, and was admitted to practice at Philadelphia September 3, 1783, in his nineteenth year. He had great legal ability and a large practice. He was a member of the Pennsylvania Constitutional Convention of 1789, and of the lower house of Congress in 1794. He conducted the trial of William Blount, impeached for conspiracy against the government, and in 1799 was again called into service by the government to assist in the prosecution of John Fries for treason. He died at Easton April 4, 1824.

Fries' lawyers, Dallas and Lewis, were among the ablest in the State. They argued in the trial that the offense amounted only to riot, and that it should be tried in the local courts. This point was not accepted by the court and the case went to trial. The verdict was guilty; but as it appeared after the verdict that one of the jury, previous to being empaneled, had expressed his opinion that Fries ought to be hung, a new trial was granted. The second trial was called for April 29, 1800. At the former trial, Fries' counsel argued at great length that the offense was only riot and not treason. They cited many English cases to support their view. The court would not take the English definition of treason, but relied upon that of the United States Constitution: "Treason shall consist in levying war against the United States, or in aiding or abetting her enemies." Fries' counsel then refused to appear further in the case. He was again found guilty, the Friday for the hanging was named, and the sheriff's posse was selected. Benjamin Rush was one of the posse, and his summons is preserved in the Rush Manuscripts at the Philadelphia Library. George Getman and Frederick Hainey were also found guilty of treason.

Permit me to present to you the speech of Hon. Samuel Sitgreave, who opened the trial on the part of the United States. The following are his remarks:

"It will appear, gentlemen, from the testimony which will be presented to you, that during the latter months of the year 1798, discord prevailed to an enormous extent throughout a large portion of the counties of Bucks, Northampton and Montgomery, and that considerable difficulties attended the assessors for the direct tax in the execution of their duties; that in several townships, associations of the people were actually formed in order to prevent the persons charged with the execution of those laws of the United States from performing their duty, and more particularly to prevent the assessors from measuring their houses.

"This opposition was made at many public township meetings called for the purpose; in many instances resolutions in writing were entered into, solemnly forewarning the officers, and many times accompanied by threats. Not only so, but discontent prevailed to such a height that even the friends of the government in that part were completely suppressed by menaces against any who should assist those officers in their duty; repeated declarations were made, both at public as well as at private meetings, that if any persons should be arrested by the civil authorities, such arrest should be followed by the rising of the people, in opposition to that authority, for the purpose of rescuing such prisoners. Indefatigable pains were taken by those charged with the execution of the laws to calm the fears and remove the misapprehensions of the infatuated people. For this purpose they read and explained the law to them, and informed them that they were misled into the idea that the law was not actually in force, for that it actually was; at the same time warning them of the consequences which would flow from opposition; and this was accompanied with promises that even their most capricious wishes would be gratified on their obedience. The favor was in many instances granted, that where any opposition was made to any certain person executing the office of assessor, another should be substituted. In some townships proposals were made for people to choose for themselves; but notwithstanding this accommodating offer the opposition continued. The consequences were actual op-

position and resistance. In some parts violence was actually used, and the assessors were taken and imprisoned by armed parties, and in other parts mobs assembled to compel them either to deliver up their papers or to resign their commissions; that in some instances they were threatened with bodily harm, so that in these parts the obnoxious law remained unexplored in consequence. The state of insurrection and rebellion had arisen to such a height that it became necessary to compel the execution of the laws, and warrants were in consequence issued against certain persons and served upon them; in some instances during the execution of that duty, the marshal met with insult and almost with violence; having, however, got nearly the whole of the warrants served, he appointed headquarters for these prisoners to rendezvous at Bethlehem, where some of them were to enter bail for their appearance in the city, and others were to come to the city in custody for trial. On the day thus appointed for the prisoners to meet, and when a number of them had actually assembled, agreeably to appointment, a number of parties in arms, both horse and foot, more than a hundred men accoutred with all their military apparatus, commanded in some instances by their proper officers, marched to Bethlehem, collected before the house in which were the marshals and prisoners, whom they demanded to be delivered up to them, and in consequence of refusal they proceeded to act very little short of actual hostility; so that the marshals deemed it prudent to accede to their demands, and the prisoners were liberated.

"This, gentlemen, is the general history of the insurrection. I shall now state to you the part which the unfortunate prisoners at the bar took in those hostile transactions. The prisoner is an inhabitant of Lower Milford, Bucks county. Some time in February last a public meeting was held at the house of one John Kline in that township to consider this house tax; at that meeting, resolutions were entered into and a paper signed; (we have endeavored to trace this paper so as to produce it to the court and jury, but have failed.) This paper was signed by fifty-five persons, and committed to the hands

of one of their number. John Fries was present at this meeting, and assisted in drawing up the paper, at which time his expressions against this law were extremely violent, and he threatened to shoot one of the assessors, Mr. Foulke, through the legs if he proceeded to assess the houses; again, the prisoner at a vendue, threatened another of the assessors, Mr. S. Clarke, that if he attempted to go on with the assessment he should be committed to an old stable and there fed on rotten corn. The assessor in Lower Milford was intimidated so as to decline making the assessment, and the principal assessor, together with three other assessors, were obliged to go into that township to execute the law. On March 5th, Mr. Chapman, the assessor, met the prisoner, who declared his determination not to submit but to oppose the law, and that by next morning he could raise seven hundred men in opposition to it.

"Fries and his partisans continued to follow and persecute several of the assessors, chasing them from township to township in parties of fifty to sixty, most of whom were in arms with drum and fife. Fries was armed with a large horse pistol, and accompanied by one Kuyder, who assisted him in command. Thus equipped they went to Quakertown, seized two assessors and attempted to fire at another who ran away, but the fire-arm did not go off. They examined the papers of the assessors and exacted a promise that they should not proceed in the valuation of the houses in Lower Milford. They abused a traveller who had the independence to stand up for the government. At Quakertown, learning that the marshal had taken a number of prisoners, they resolved to effect their rescue, and the people of Milford were invited to assist in the business, and a paper setting forth their design was drawn up by Fries at his own house and signed by the party. On the morning of the next day twenty or more of them met at the house of Conard Marks, in arms. John Fries was armed with a sword, and had a feather in his hat. On the road, as they went forward, they were met by young Marks, who told them they might as well turn about, for that the Northampton people were strong enough to do the business without those from Bucks county.

Some were inclined to do so, but at the instance of Fries and some others, they did go forward and actually proceeded to Bethlehem. Before the arrival of these troops, a party going on the same business had stopped at the bridge near Bethlehem, where they were met by a deputation from the Marshal to advise them to return home. They agreed to halt there and send three of their number to declare to the Marshal their demand. During this period, Fries actually took the party over the bridge, and he arranged the toll and ordered them to proceed. With respect to the truth of the proceedings at Bethlehem, it cannot be mistaken. He was then the leading man, and he appeared to enjoy the command. With the consent of his people, he demanded the prisoners of the Marshal, and when that officer told him he could not surrender them, except they were taken away from him by force, and produced his warrant for taking them. The prisoner then harangued his party, and explained to them the necessity of using force, and that you should not mistake his design, we will prove to you what he declared: 'that was the third day which he had been out on this expedition, that he had a skirmish the day before, and if the prisoners were not released he should have another that day.'

"'Now you observe,' continued he, 'that force is necessary, but you must obey orders. We will not go without taking the prisoners. But take my orders, you must not fire first; you must first be fired upon; and when I am gone, you must do as well as you can, as I expect to be the first man that falls.'"

"He further declared to the Marshal that they would fire until a cloud of smoke prevented them from seeing each other. He harangued the troops to obey his orders, which they did. The Marshal was really intimidated to liberate the prisoners, and then the object was accomplished, and the party dispersed amid the huzzas of the insurgents. After this affair at Bethlehem the prisoner frequently avowed his opposition to the law and justified that outrage; and when a meeting was afterward held at Lower Milford to choose assessors, the prisoner refused his assent, and appeared as violent as ever."

The above remarks of Mr. Sitgreave are a good summary of the view of the case which the government took. The cause of Fries was espoused by the Republican party and a number of newspapers throughout the State. The *Aurora* denounced the action of the officers, and charged that the army lived in free quarters on the inhabitants. The *Adler*, a German paper published at Reading, also denounced the action of the troops and charged them with beating the children and other brutal acts. Discussion on the subject became so bitter that it entered into politics and became an important issue.

Several others from the same vicinity were tried and generally found guilty of the subordinate crimes of sedition, insurrection and riot. They were imprisoned for a time and heavily fined, and held to bail for good behavior. Among the disaffected who had been taken prisoners by the Marshal, and who were rescued by the insurgents, was one Jacob Eyerman, a German minister, recently arrived from Germany. He seems to have exerted nearly as much influence as Fries in stirring up the people in Chestnut Hill and Hamilton townships to opposition. History does not state to what sect he belonged, but the testimony would seem to show that he strongly favored the church militant.

One of the assessors testified that while on his round of duty in Chestnut Hill township, the prisoner, Eyerman, came in and began to rip out in a violent manner against this taxation, saying that Congress had made laws which were unjust, and the people need not take up with them; if they did, all kinds of laws would follow; but if they would not put up with this, they need not with those that would come after, because it was a free country; but in case the people admitted of those laws, they would certainly be put under great burdens. He said he knew perfectly what laws were made, and that the President and Congress had no right to make them; that Congress and the government only made such laws to rob the people, and that they were only a parcel of damned rogues, or "spitz bube" (highwaymen or thieves).



"Were the people of the township much opposed to the law?" "Yes, they were so violent that I knew but one man on the same side as myself." "Would this have been so if it had not been for the parson?" "I am fully convinced it would not." "Did Eyerman appear to be a simple sort of man, easily to be led astray or deluded?" "No, he was not thought so; he was always a very good preacher." Eyerman then asked in the trial: "Did I not pray for the government, president and vice president?" "Yes, you did when in the pulpit, but when you were out you prayed the other way."

John Sneider deposed that he lived in Hamilton township and knew the prisoner. As much as he understood, the prisoner meant to take up arms against the tax law. Eyerman said that if we let that go forward, it would go on as in the old country, but that he would rather hang his black coat on a nail and fight the whole week, and preach for them Sundays, rather than that it should be so. "How long has this man been at Hamilton?" "About eighteen months." "The township was always peaceable, I suppose, before he came among you?" "Yes, and I believe if he had not come, nothing would have happened of the kind."

Another witness said that Eyerman came to his house, where conversation began about the house tax, whereupon he said that he did not care whether they put up with it or not, for he had no house to tax. A person present answered, but you have a great quantity of books to tax. The prisoner answered that if anybody would offer to tax his books, he would take a French, a Latin, a Hebrew and a Greek book down to them, and if they could not read them, he would slap them about their ears till they would fall to pieces. Eyerman continued preaching to his congregation until he was taken up. After the rescue he fled to New York State, but was apprehended and brought back and found guilty of conspiracy. He was sentenced to be imprisoned one year, fifty dollars fine, and give security for his good behavior one year.

In the meantime national political affairs were so developing that President Adams was led to pardon John Fries. Our

country became involved in hostilities with France, on account of the refusal to declare war against England. The ratification of Jay's treaty with England also offended France. The result of the "X. Y. Z." mission to France also caused a division in the president's cabinet. The Alien and Sedition laws had also made Adams unpopular, and as the time for the presidential election was drawing near, Adams felt the necessity of making a stroke which would tend to quiet the great opposition that was arising, as he was a candidate for reelection. To help accomplish this result he pardoned Fries. Adams would most likely have pardoned Fries at any rate. He was the first man condemned to death for treason, and the President felt reluctant about being the first to execute the stern law. Pardons were also issued to Getman and Hainey. There is a story that Mrs. Fries interceded with the President and secured the pardon of her husband. Some claim that she and her seven children appeared before Adams, weeping and begging for the pardon, and that he himself was so affected that he could not refuse it.

Bishop William Price, of Indian creek, once referred to this in a sermon, but it is more likely that the President granted the pardon for political effect. After his pardon Fries opened a tinware store in Philadelphia and prospered. General Davis, of Doylestown, claims that this is not true, but that Fries spent the remainder of his days in Bucks county. There is sufficient evidence, however, to prove that he was engaged in this business in Philadelphia.

The appearance of the large military force in the German district, and the numerous arrests and trials, finally subdued the people, and Dr. Muhlenberg and others went through the counties explaining the law to them in the German tongue. After once understanding the nature of the law, they immediately became obedient, proving that they had been urged into disobedience by the misrepresentations of unscrupulous leaders.

This uprising had more than a local interest for many years. Webster, in his great reply to Hayne, referred to Fries several times, one place saying: "If John Fries had produced

an act of Pennsylvania annulling the law of Congress, would it have helped his case?"

It was one of the many factors which tended to make the administration of John Adams unpopular, leading to the downfall of the Federal party and its final disappearance from the realm of politics.

## A BRITISH CAPTURE.

By William J. Buck.

While engaged in researches for a history of Moreland, published by the Historical Society of Pennsylvania in 1853, I had my attention attracted by a brief mention of the capture of a large drove of cattle on their way to camp by a detachment of the British army. Though this was about all the information that I then possessed, I deemed it of sufficient importance to bear it in mind to secure thereon all the additional information in relation to it I possibly could, and the result has been quite gratifying. As may be supposed this affair proved a serious loss to our suffering army at its most critical situation, when almost brought to the brink of starvation, as may be observed by the dates of our several authorities. It was of course in such an emergency to the interest of the American cause to conceal this or any other misfortune, and hence now the greater difficulty to get at the material facts, which fortunately have been supplied through the recovery of several contemporaneous documents on both sides. Thus it is in war, that whatever one party may strive to conceal the other will be as ready to divulge or take advantage of, and when peace is established or intercourse resumed, by a careful comparison the truth may be arrived at. This is exactly my present case, or I could not have succeeded in this undertaking, which I believe has not hitherto received the attention of the historian.

To denote more fully the loss occasioned I propose now to show the condition of the army just before and after this unfortunate occurrence. "At no period of the war," says Chief Justice Marshall, who was present, "had the American army been reduced to a situation of greater peril than during

the winter at Valley Forge. More than once they were absolutely without food. Even while their condition was less desperate in this respect their stock of provisions was so scanty that there was seldom at any time in the stores a quantity sufficient for the use of the troops for one week." "The situation of the camp is such," wrote General Varnum to General Green, on the 12th of February, "that in all human probability the army must dissolve. Many of the troops are destitute of meat, and are several days in arrears. The horses are dying for the want of forage. The country in the vicinity of the camp is exhausted." On the 16th Washington wrote to Governor Clinton, "For some days past there has been little less than a famine in the camp. A part of the army has been a week without any kind of flesh, and the rest three or four days. Naked and starved as they are we cannot enough admire the incomparable patience and fidelity of the soldiery, that they have not been ere this excited by their sufferings to a general mutiny and desertion."

In consequence of the great distress prevailing increased efforts were made to keep the camp supplied with provisions. A drove of one hundred and thirty head of fat cattle had been collected in New York and the adjacent Eastern States, and after having been driven through New Jersey, it is supposed, crossed the Delaware river at or near the present Centre Bridge, then known as Howell's Ferry. The drover having them in charge, on arriving on the Pennsylvania side, and no doubt acting under instructions from those in authority, sought General John Lacey, who was then stationed with the body of men on the York road at what was known as the Cross Roads, for a guard to accompany and protect him from any marauding forces from out the city while on his way to the camp at Valley Forge. Lacey had been commissioned a brigadier general, January 9, 1778, and to him was given the command of the Pennsylvania militia between the rivers Delaware and Schuylkill. His orders from Washington were to watch the enemy, to protect the inhabitants and prevent further intercourse between them and the country, and cut off all

supplies designed for their use. For this purpose he was stationed in Warwick township about the middle of January, on the 23d, at Græme Park, and at the Cross Roads, now Harts-ville, a few days later, where he remained until March 3d, when he formed his camp near Hatboro.

General Lacey having refused a guard for reasons that will be subsequently given, in this unfortunate dilemma the drover deemed it most prudent, considering the condition of the half-famished soldiers, to push on as rapidly as he could to the desired destination. It is likely as the nearest possible highway, for him to confine himself to the old Swede's Ford road, laid out in 1730, from Wells' Ferry, now New Hope, by way of Doylestown and the present Montgomery Square, where it intersected the main road leading from Philadelphia towards Bethlehem, opened five years later; hence a point of considerable travel. It was here that John Bartholomew kept a public house for several years before his death in 1756, succeeded by Mary, his widow, and before 1776 by his son Edward, who we know by the assessment of Montgomery township for that year was rated for one hundred acres of land, two negroes, four horses and three cattle. These several matters are essential for a clearer understanding of the more exciting incidents we shall shortly have occasion to mention.

That General Lacey was not wholly inactive in interrupting and cutting off supplies to the British in Philadelphia, is evident from their repeated efforts in retaliating against his measures. Besides, in their army were a number of men who had joined them that were natives of the central parts of Bucks and Philadelphia counties, who maintained a correspondence with their relatives or friends left behind, and were thus the better enabled to act the part of spies or informers. This was particularly the case in the townships of New Britain, Hatfield and adjoining parts. It was thus, no doubt, that information was speedily conveyed to the British army of the approach of this drove of cattle, and where on its way it might be best to capture and secure for themselves. We shall now disclose the mode of proceeding which certainly denotes their being

well and speedily posted, when we come to consider the only means of communication that then existed.

On the evening or night of February 23, 1778, a strong force from the British army in the disguise of mounted countrymen left the city, and above Flouertown struck directly up the Skippack road, during the day keeping as much as possible in the forests, and at night quartered themselves at or near Peter Wentz's, which was in the vicinity of Wentz's church, in Worcester township, nearly a mile above the present Center Point. Early the next morning they proceeded a short distance up said road, and then must have turned northeast into Towamencin and Hatfield townships, and the probabilities are, from our information thereon, that the capture of the cattle was made in the latter township, not likely above eleven miles northeast of Valley Forge, from three to five from Peter Wentz's and twenty three from Philadelphia. To avoid recapture, or that any force should meet them from Valley Forge, the cattle were now hastily driven back to the Bucks county line, and along the course of the same for several miles, thence likely by the York road into the city, where, by the British statement, they arrived sometime in the afternoon, but more likely in the evening of said day. This must have been certainly a severe travel on the cattle, for the distance from the point of capture by this route could not have been less than twenty-six miles. So thoroughly were the British forces disguised that the residents around Peter Wentz's supposed they were Americans, and this illusion was not dispelled until the loss of the cattle was ascertained.

This occurrence was thus announced in the *Pennsylvania Ledger* of February 25, 1778, published by James Humphreys, and of course in the British interest: "Yesterday afternoon a part of the dragoons of the royal army and Captain Hovendon with a part of his Pennsylvania dragoons returned to town, having left it the night before about eleven o'clock. They had been at least thirty miles up the Skippack road, and having taken one hundred and thirty head of very fine cattle, brought them in with a number of prisoners." No doubt among the

latter was the drover, who had applied for a guard, and his assistants. As regards the aforesaid Richard Hovendon, I may add, he was a Pennsylvanian by birth, who was attainted and his property confiscated for treason. This company was subsequently incorporated in Tarleton's Legion, sent south and, with the rest of the forces under Cornwallis, surrendered prisoners at Yorktown. Such are the vicissitudes of war.

Owing to the distressed condition of the camp for food, so great a misfortune as the loss of this drove of cattle must have greatly pained Washington on learning the particulars thereof. This at once induced him to issue an address "To the Inhabitants of New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland and Virginia," which we give in full.

"Friends, Countrymen and Fellow Citizens:—After three campaigns, during which the brave subjects of these States have contended, not unsuccessfully, with one of the most powerful kingdoms on earth, we find ourselves at least upon a level with our opponents; and there is the best reason to believe that efforts adequate to the abilities of this country would enable us speedily to conclude the war, and to secure the invaluable blessings of peace, liberty and safety. With this view, it is in contemplation at the opening of the next campaign, to assemble a force sufficient, not barely to cover the country from a repetition of these depredations, which it has already suffered, but also to operate offensively, and strike some decisive blows.

"In the prosecution of this object it is to be feared that so large an army may suffer for the want of provisions. The distance between this and the Eastern States, whence considerable supplies of flesh have hitherto been drawn, will necessarily render those supplies precarious. And unless the virtuous yeomanry of the States of New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland and Virginia will exert themselves to prepare cattle for the use of the army during the months of May, June and July next, great difficulties may arise in the course of the campaign. It is therefore recommended to the inhabitants of those States to put up and feed immediately as many of their stock-cattle as they *can spare*, so that they may be driven to this army within that period. A bountiful price will be given, and the proprietors may assure themselves that they will render a most essential service to the illustrious cause of their country,



and contribute, in a great degree, to shorten this bloody contest. But should there be any so insensible to the common interest as not to exert themselves upon these generous principles, the private interest of those whose situation makes them liable to become immediate subjects of the enemy's incursions, should prompt them at least to a measure which is calculated to save their property from plunder, their families from insult, and their own persons from abuse, hopeless confinements, or, perhaps, a violent death. G. WASHINGTON.

*Headquarters Valley Forge, Feb. 28, 1778."*

In reference to this capture we shall now give extracts in the order of date from the correspondence of several distinguished men who were in the army at this time and more or less concerned therewith. Washington, March 2d, wrote to General Lacey, wherein he says: "I yesterday received yours of the 27th of February. I had heard of the loss of the cattle before it came to hand, and I am sorry to say that the loss is imputed to your having refused to let the drovers have a guard when they applied for one. I shall be glad to know whether it is so; and if so, if true, what could be your reason for refusing." To this General Lacey replied on the following day from his "Camp at Crooked Billet," sixteen miles from Philadelphia: "I received your excellency's favor of the 2d instant at seven o'clock this evening. It is true I refused the drover a guard for the cattle, and the reason was on the account of the smallness of my numbers. I advised the drover to take a course further back in the country, where I concluded they might pass without danger. In the condition I was in I was not able to furnish the guards and patrols sufficient for the safety of my own camp. Nevertheless, had I suspected the least danger, I should have sent what men I had equipped with them."

March 4th, Rev. William Vanhorn, chaplain of a Pennsylvania regiment, wrote from Valley Forge to Joseph Hart, a member of the Supreme Executive Council, then in session at Lancaster, stating that the "light horse, under the command of the infamous Hovendon, consisting chiefly of wretches from among ourselves, have made several daring excursions into

the country, and, without any resistance, captured many of the inhabitants, and taken cloth at Newtown at one tour and a number of cattle at another, amounting to about one hundred and thirty, which last were taken about four miles above Mr. Edward Bartholomew's, on the morning of the 24th of February." In a letter of the aforesaid date to General Armstrong, Lacey remarks: "I have been turned out into a wide country to protect the inhabitants and to stop intercourse with the enemy, which it would require two thousand troops to effect, with only fifty men, which was actually my strength for a long time; and when a reinforcement came they were helpless and without arms and none in camp. While in this awkward situation, a drover of cattle, which passing through the country, was taken by the enemy, on account of my not being able to provide them with a guard."

Also, on the 4th of March, Lacey dispatched a letter to General Potter, wherein he gives us some additional information: "You very well know the situation you left me in, and the declining state of the militia, which at last was reduced so that I could not on the greatest emergency parade more than forty men. In this forlorn condition I thought proper to send all the arms and stores belonging to the brigade to Allentown. The time of these forty was to expire in a few days; and no tidings of a fresh supply near, I expected to be left alone. In this melancholy predicament I moved my little camp to the banks of the Neshaminy, where I could not be easily surprised. I then detached off wagons I thought sufficient to bring the arms to complete my numbers, but the road proved so bad they only brought three hundred. At this critical moment a large party of cattle were on the way to camp, the drover of which applied to me for a guard; but in my tattered condition I thought myself unable to supply him. I advised him to keep back in the country, where I thought there was no danger; but he keeping too low, the cattle were taken by the enemy the next night near Bartholomew's tavern. Many censure me for not sending a guard with them, which I think was out of

my power in the condition I then was; for the men had double duty to do for their own safety."

General Wayne wrote from Bensalem March 15th to Gen. Lacey as follows: "His Excellency having ordered me to collect and drive in all the cattle, horses and wagons in the counties of Bucks and Philadelphia, likely to fall into the hands of the enemy—especially the property of the Tories—I wish you to order your troops to make a grand forage between Newtown and Philadelphia, and in that direction, through both counties; driving the property so taken in the rear—and from thence to camp—passing certificates to the owners for the same, to the end that the well affected may at one day receive compensation." We herein perceive severe retaliatory measures to be taken against the British and their adherents for the course pursued in their recent marauding expeditions, especially for that of February 24th.

While engaged in these researches I had my attention called to another letter of Washington but little known, dated Valley Forge, March 20, 1778, and addressed to General Cadwallader, wherein he mentions the effect occasioned by the loss of said cattle: "By death and desertion we have lost a good many men since we came to this ground, and we have encountered every species of hardship that cold, wet, and hunger, and want of clothes were capable of producing. Notwithstanding, and contrary to my expectations, we have been able to keep the soldiers from mutiny or dispersion; although in the single article of provisions they have encountered enough to have occasioned one or the other of these in most other armies. They have two or three times been days together without provisions, and once six days without any of the meat kind. Could the poor horses tell their tale, it would be in a strain still more lamentable, as numbers have actually died from pure want. But as our prospects begin to brighten, my complaints shall cease." We can not think but with what pain and mortification the aforesaid disclosure must have been written, when we come to consider the trying ordeal yet before him, ere the result to

which he looked so hopefully could be accomplished. Adversity tended the more to bring out his greatness.

The correspondence of General Lacey during the Revolutionary period does not appear to show that he was either a very active or vigilant officer. Washington in his letter to him, dated May 3, 1778, on his being surprised in his camp near Hatboro, denotes this, in which he had so narrow an escape by retreating through the woods. But that struggle is now long over; those that engaged in it, friends as well as foes, have departed. Their sufferings from hunger, cold and nakedness have gone with them to be no more repeated. This affair, the capture of a drove of cattle when within half a day's journey of its final destination for the famished soldiers, has nearly been forgotten and overlooked. However, just such olden-time fragments that the antiquary may have the success to find and bring together can form interesting episodes that may survive and be cherished as a part of our country's history at its most trying time.

## FOURTH AND FIFTH BATTALIONS, PENNSYLVANIA MILITIA, 1777-1780.

By the Hon. Jones Detwiler.

The Association system, after the experience of its effects from the beginning of the war, was admitted to be too uncertain to be depended upon in case of emergency. The conduct of the Philadelphia Associators at Amboy in the preceding summer was not near so bad as that of some of the companies from the county after the battle of Princeton, some of whom deserted in full bodies, leaving only their officers, and, in one case spoken of by General Putnam, "Only a lieutenant and a lame man." The time had now come for the establishment of a regular and permanent militia, and to that task the Assembly addressed itself. A militia bill was prepared and passed. It provided that the city and county of Philadelphia, and the various counties throughout the State, should be divided into districts, each of which was to have within it not less than six hundred and eighty men fit for military duty. Over these divisions were placed lieutenants, from each city and county, and sub-lieutenants for each district. Each district was subdivided into eight parts or companies, and each district was to elect its own lieutenant, colonel, major, captain and other officers. The lieutenants and sub-lieutenants took lists of all the inhabitants of their districts, collected the fines, and superintended generally the execution of the details of the law.

The companies were divided by lots into classes and provision made for calling out the classes as they were wanted. Persons enrolled, who refused to parade when ordered, were to be fined 7s, 6d., per day; officers absent, 10s. per day; non-commissioned and privates, 5s. per day. On field days, officers not attending were to be fined £5, and non-commissioned officers and privates 15s. Companies were to be exercised upon

two days in April, three days in May, two days in August, two days in September, and one day in October of each year. Battalions were to parade once in May and once in October. In cases of loss of limb by militiamen in service, the State undertook to pay half the monthly pay to sufferers.

For Philadelphia county, William Coates, lieutenant, Jacob Engle, Samuel Dewees, George Smith, Archibald Thompson and William Antis were appointed sub-lieutenants.

The officers for the county of Philadelphia (now Montgomery) were as follows: First battalion, for the townships of Upper Salford, Lower Salford, Towamencin, Hatfield, Perkiomen and Skippack, Daniel Heister, Jr., colonel; Jacob Reid, lieutenant-colonel; Jacob Markley, major.

Second battalion, Germantown, Roxborough, Springfield and Bristol, John Moore, colonel; Aaron Levering, lieutenant-colonel; George Miller, major.

Third battalion, Cheltenham, Abington, Lower Division of the Manor of Moreland, Lower Dublin, Byberry and Oxford, Benjamin McVeagh, colonel; David Schneider, lieutenant-colonel; John Holmes, major.

Fourth battalion, Upper Division of Moreland, Upper Gwynedd and Montgomery, William Dean, colonel; Robert Loller, lieutenant-colonel; George Right, major.

Fifth battalion, Whitmarsh, Plymouth, Whitpain, Norrington, Worcester and New Providence, (now Upper and Lower Providence) Robert Curry, colonel; Archibald Thompson, lieutenant-colonel; John Edward, major.

Sixth battalion, Limerick, Douglass, Marlborough, New Hanover and Upper Hanover and Frederick, Frederick Antes, colonel; Frederick Weis, lieutenant-colonel; Jacob Bush, major.

Seventh battalion, Upper Merion, Lower Merion, Blockleys and Kingessing, John Paschall, colonel; Isaac Warner, lieutenant-colonel; Matt Jones, major.

The following is a list of captains comprising the Fourth Battalion of Philadelphia county (now Montgomery) commanded by Colonel William Dean, taken from an old pamph-

let now in the possession of the writer, published in Philadelphia in 1783, and printed by Francis Bailey, on Market street:

A statement of the fines paid by the Fourth Battalion of Philadelphia County Militia. The fines ranged from £6 to £37, according to the different classes, and were paid by the following persons in 1777, viz.:

Captain Dull's Company, in Gwynedd, Lower Division—Cillion Wolfinger, Sergeant, £15. Privates, Enoch Morgan, George Selsor, Conard Gearhart, Joseph Leblon, John Smyth, George A. Snider, William Moore, Adam Fleck, John Getter, Ezekiel Cleaver, Hugh Foulke, Joshua Foulke, Levi Foulke, Jesse Foulke, Griffith Edwards, Samuel Siddons, David Morris, Ezekiel Cleaver, Jr., Daniel Morgan, William Stempel, David Roberts, John Evans, Garret Clemense, John Everhart, William Roberts, William Johnstone, Owen Evans, John Sidons, Nicholas Rial, Conard Clime, John Singer, John Selsor, Jacob Preston and Thomas Evans; amount, £988, 10s.

Captain Hart's Company, Middle Division of Moreland—John Wynkoop, Abel Janes, John Wright, Harman Yerkes, Isaac Janes, Elias Yerkes, Yost Vanbuskirk, Samuel Heirs, John Taylor, George Foster, Elias Yerkes, Sr., George Yerkes, James Harker, Garret Wyncoop, John Case, Levi Tyson, Jacob Cline, Thomas Mitchener, William Mitchener, John Wood, Elisha Thomas, Jonathan Clayton, Isaac Warner, Benjamin Austin, Jacob Comely, Joseph Bond, Benoni Stockdale, Daniel Bellen, Henry Johnstone, Michael Conrad, Paul Rust, Isaac Bond, Joseph Vanbuskirk, Anthony Yerkes, Isaac Cadwallader, Robert Austin, Elias Yerkes (cooper), John Moore, John Kennedy, Isaac Roberts, John Neasmith, Samuel Shoemaker, William Patterson, Robert Little and William Purdy; amount of fines, £1,444, 12s., 6d.

Captain Bloom's Company, Upper Gwynedd—Jacob Wisner, Benjamin Harry, Rees Roberts, Samuel Wheeler, Melchoir Crible (Kreible), Caleb Foulke, Levi Jenkins, John Erwin, Jacob Smith, Job Luken, John Dilcart, Jacob Wiout, Samuel Castner, William Springar, John Evans, William Williams, Jacob Hisler, John Luken, Daniel Hoffman, Thomas Shoemaker, William Hoffman, John Thomson, George Roberts, Jacob Young, Isaac Kulp, Joseph Long, Jacob Albright, Isaac Lewes, Amos Roberts, Joseph Lewis, David Harry, George Morris and Rees Harry; amount of fines, £935 17s. 6d.

Captain Hines' Company, Montgomery Township—William Fry, Joseph Ambler, Jr., James Roberts, John Hartzel, Edward Morgan, Isaac Jones, Daniel Jones, John Ambler, Joseph Ambler, Sr., John Jones, William Childs, Henry Moor (Moore), Samuel Thomas, Cadwallader Roberts, Christopher Wells, George Gordon, Robert Gordon, George Dunaker, Robert Parks, John Heckman, William Hugh, John Drake, John Roberts, Samuel Thomas, Jr., Thomas Layman, Peter Evans, Esq., Enoch Beam, Henry Johnston, Richard Moore, Alexander Scott, John Rausbery, Ezekiel Shoemaker, Joseph Butler, Edward Ambler; amount of fines, £924, 15s.

Captain Folwell's Company, Upper Division of Moreland—Jesse Jarrett, Nathan Shoemaker, Levi Bond, John Spencer, Benjamin Lloyd, Humphrey Waterman, John Holwell, John Dubree, William Shoemaker, John Richardson, Jeremiah Walton, Edward Farmer, Lawrence Ludenburgh, Peter Bowman, Mordecai Thomas, Nicholas Austin, George Bewley, Peter Shoemaker, Caleb Davis, Andrew Gilkey, John Horner, Samuel Shoemaker, John Tompkins, Edward Eaton, Luke Billou, Joseph Gilbert, William Millar, Jerret Spencer, Jacob Baker, Benjamin Perry, Thomas Perry, Benjamin Bond, Lawrence Soutman, Samuel Barnes, William Ryan, David Perry, Jacob Walton, Jeremiah Walton, Samuel Gourley, William Morgan, Thomas Lloyd, Joseph Butler, Matt Holwell and Samuel Lloyd; amount of fines, £1,359, 7s., 4d.

Captain Marple's Company, Horsham Township—William Thomas, John Switzer, John Edwards, Stephen Murray, John Kenderline, John Lloyd, Isaac Parry, John Conrad, Benjamin White, Thomas Nixon, Thomas Palmer, Moses Lancaster, William Jarrett, Lewis Woolman, Seneca Luken, Abel Dungan, William McLean, John Carvor, David Luken, Thomas Ackloy, John Anderson, Samuel Cullet, Evan Roberts, Samuel McNair, John Ewers, John Bright, Mordecai Holt, Jonathan Luken, Thomas Barnes, Jr., John Hollowell, Christian Christine, Joseph Millar, Robert Lukens, Edward Walker, John Marple, Samuel Conrad, Joseph Williams, Benjamin Kenderdine, Thomas Lukens, Thomas Barnes, Sr., Edward Bond, John Cadwallader, Peter Lukens, James Dunn, James Stevens, Thomas Hollowell, John Naylor, Daniel Jones, Samuel DeHaven, Charles Rubekum, Joseph Kenderdine, Benjamin Cadwallader, Hugh Lloyd, Nathan Lukens, Charles Tredill, (Iredel), Robert Tredell, Jr. (Iredel), Atkinson Hugh, John Adamson, Jabez White, Samuel Hollowell, Dennis Conrad, Jr., and Jesse Holt; amount of fines, £1,757, 17s., 6d.



Captain Mann's Company, Upper Dublin Township—Sergeant John Chesmet, John Kirk, Jonathan Tyson, John Spencer, James Spencer, Jacob Lancaster, James McCrory, John Amon, George Fulmore, Jeremiah Warder, John McGlathery, Samuel Gardner, Samuel Spencer, Peter Shoemaker, Isaac Cleaver, William Inghart, Nathan Cleaver, Arthur Broadus, Daniel Shoemaker, Daniel McVaugh, Samuel Walton, Benjamin Walton, Peter Cleaver, Peter Inghart, Andrew Casner, Samuel McCrorey, Peter Evans, Martin Ferringier, Jesse Trump, Amos Ragon, Henry Earnhart, Benjamin Stemple, Jacob Hounel, Philip Inghart, Alexander McDowell, John Clayton, John Jarret, John Trum, John Oats, William Fitzgerald, John Fitzwater, John Ferringier, Michael Rap, George Emlen, John Whitcomb, David Collar, John Collar, John Becker, Chris. Herner (Harner), John Thomas, John Morris, John Robinson, John Heston, John Potts, Jesse Cleaver, Amos Lewis, Abner Lukens, Matt. Fitzwater, George Ferringier, John Lewis, Abner Trump, Henry Grubb, Isaac Kirk, John Wise, Henry Rumer, William Horner, Ryner Kirk, David Evans, John Inghart and George Casner; whole amount of fines, £1,883, 15s.

List of fines paid by delinquents of the several companies of the Fifth Battalion for non-attendance upon the days of exercise in the year 1779. The fines ranged from £1, 10s. to £19, 10s.

Captain Shepherd's Company, Plymouth—Thomas Hollowell, Benjamin Lavinger, David Jones, Philip Lloyd, William Tippen, John Wood, James Wood, James McFarland, John Campell, Jacob Whitman, Stephen Davis, Stephen Potts, John Dickinson, Zebulon Potts, Esq., Nathan Potts, John Holman, Jesse Wikerline, David Brooks, Ludwick Reinbolt, John Davis, Thomas Davis, John Coulston, John Whitman, Martin Whitman, David Davis, Christopher Helen, John Davis, Andrew DeHaven, Samuel Stroud, John Zimmerman, John Lyle, Rees Bell, William Ryan, Roberts Lyle, Thomas Worlow, Joseph Levering, Henry Grubb, Ludwick Shearer, Abraham Griffith, Samuel Cocklin, John Scisler, James Stroud, Griffith Thomas, William Ellis, Levi Trump, Patrick Connel, Philip Sidner, John Colloy, Michael Wills, William Gregory, Peter Arnold, Andrew Lisner, Charles Linensheet and John Clinton; whole amount of fines, £589, 15s.

Captain Rynear's Company, Whitpain—Frederick Ramsey, John Loeser, Christian Singer, Isaac Martin, Edward

Roberts, Joseph Hollowell, Christopher Zimmerman, Josiah Dickinson, Samuel Coulston, Herman Hendricks, Joseph DeHaven, Isaac Ellis, Jr., Amos Ellis, Daniel Roberts, Leonard Maltz, Benjamin Penrose, Owen Thomas, Evan Thomas, Robert Thomas, Lawrence Shearer, John Davas, Mal ca Davis, Thomas White, Henry Styer, John Styer, John Shay, Job Roberts, Moses DeHaven, Stephen Styer, Michael Sisler, David DeHaven, William Hallowell, Joseph Paul, Morgan Morgan, Joshua Richards, Abram Bennett, George Bisbing, John Davis (mason), Thomas Williams, Morris Taylor, James Morris, David Evans, George Jacobs, William Robinson, Samuel DeHaven, Jr., Alexander McDowell, Benjamin Dickinson, John White, Jesse DeHaven, Adam Boyles, Conard Boas, Adam Taylor, Jacob Boas, Battler Yetter, John Osborne, Henry Shad (Shade), Barney Weaver, James Egbert, Elias Horning, George Greger, Silas Jones, John Davis, Jonathan Tipps (Phipps), Philip Fisher, Adam Hamer, Nathaniel Dowden, John Peck, Levi Martin, John Thompson, Ethcam Daws, David Daws and John Pugh; total fines, £1,106, 10s.

New Providence (now Upper and Lower Providence) was divided into two companies, as follows:

Captain Francis' Company—Cadwallader Evans, Jacob Buth, William Lane, Arnold Fox, Mattis Moyer, Richard Umstead, John Bryan, Henry Taney, John Pauling, Owen Evans, John Ward, Amos Vanvosin, John Bathers, John Schrack, Samuel Roseter, Abram Moyer, Isaac Pauling, Jacob Vanderslice, Henry Hall, Conard Stem, James Boreland, James Vaux, William Shepherd, James Low, George Gillegan, Joseph DuBois, Thomas Brown, George Clements, John Hallowood, Andrew Hoff, John Major, Thomas Powel, Jacob Caselbury, John Moyer, David Evans, Peter Freadley, William Thomas, Frederick Stemm, James Jordan, Benjamin Evans, Thomas Deats, John Givens, John Shepherd, Jacob Zimmerman, Henry Martseller, Adam Ferringer, John Base, Nathan Pauling, William Couch, Daniel Markley, Henry Rynear, Charles Evans, Abram Skeen, Andrew Bell, Abram Rynear and Valentine Polley; total, £687, 15s.

Captain Peterman's Company—Charles Young, Jacob Shunk, Jacob Buckwalter, Nicholas Robinson, John Cox, Matthias Coplan, Anthony Vanderslice, Jacob Longacre, Peter Horning, George Young, Frederick Zimmerman, John Hammer, Daniel Longacre, Thomas Vanderslice, Jacob Gross,

James Hammer, Benedict Garver, Christopher Marshall, Michael Horning, Francis Shunk, William White, Samuel Penepacker, Samuel Gordon, William Cox, Jacob Razor, John Umstead, Peter Shunk, Daniel Cressman, David Longacre and Peter Stump; whole amount, £417, 15s.

Captain Johnnton's Company, Whitemarsh—Isaac Lyle, George Freece (Freas), Leonard Kulp, William Roary, John Shephard, Philip Shubart, James Eake, Christopher Shupert, Adam Miller, David Shoemaker, George Cushman, Valentine Crisman, Thomas Deats, Francis Wright, John Conrod (Conrad), John Fisher, John Harry, Henry Cunsman, John Hufty, John Powell, Isaac Williams, David Davis, Adam Moyer, Jacob Coon, Harry Snider, John Shupert and John Richards; whole amount, £439, 10s.

Captain McClean's Company, Whitemarsh—Isaac Mathers, John Hallowell, Joseph Luken, Edward Hopton, John Egbert, Samuel Morris, George Skittenger, George Amen (Aiman), Lewis Evans, William Jones, Owen Morris, Joseph Wood, Samuel McKool, Joseph Janes (Jeans), Thomas Lancaster, Sr., Thomas Lancaster, Jr., Samuel Dean, John Derrick, Rude Bartte, Archibald Derrick, Evan Meredith, Richard Mairs (Morris), James Nettle, Andrew Gilkeson, Albright Houser, Laurence Egbert, Jacob Acoff (Acuff), Samuel Williams, Morris Malsby, Peter Robinson, George Hawker (Hocker), Jesse Rex, Henry Shitz (Scheetz), Jacob Dager, Jacob Kook (Cook), Josiah White, Martin Brown and George Hawker; whole amount of fines, £555 10s. This district was divided into two companies.

Captain Trump's Company, Norrington—Jacob Keasy, Philip Shurs, Amos Evans, Benjamin Hallowell, Andrew Ziegler, John Wentz, David Coulston, Abram Jones, Melchor Hevnor (Heebner), Jacob Base, William Shannon, Isaac Roberts, Joseph Tyson, Robert Jones, Robert Shannon, Matt Chain, Frederick Rednor, Josiah Wood, David Gouldy, Jacob Rhoades, Edward Wells, Samuel Bartleson, David Wagonner, Henry Pauling, Josiah Pritten, Nicholas Slough, Levi Roberts, Isaac Boulton, Caleb Richards, Jacob Painter, Christopher Rittenhouse, Ezekiel Rhoads, Samuel Brown, John Shannon, William Zimmerman, Christopher Hevnor (Heebner), Isaac Shoemaker, Benjamin Dewees, Jacob Evans, David Norman, Jacob Wood, Daniel Couch, David Supplee, William Rittenhouse, Joseph Dewees, Mattis Miller, Henry Coulson, Casper Gouldy, Jacob Mattis, Joseph Wood, Adam Gaylor, John

Bartleson, John Rednor, George Baker, John McCannon, Colley Yetter and Miles Evans; whole amount of fines, £799, 10s.

Captain Lowrie's Company, Worcester—John Matts, Benjamin Tyson, Arnold Bean, Leonard Vanvosin, Jacob Weaver, William Davis, Jacob Snider (Lower), Thomas Hess, George Hevnor (Heebner), Peter Kisor, John Bean (weaver), Isaac Johnston, John Davis, Henry Kulp, Peter Custard (Custer), Daniel Stone, Conrad Siple, Henry Hendricks, John Davis, Jacob Zimmerman, Christopher Stover, Abraham Duitwiller (Detwiler), Derrick Kisor, Conrad Stemn, John Idol, John Moor, John Sanders, Peter Gerehart, Matt. Rittenhouse, Jacob Bean, Benjamin Rittenhouse, Christopher Zimmerman, John Bean (shoemaker), Jacob Singer, Job Hevnor (Heebner), Garret Bean, Abraham Hevnor (Heebner), John Morris, Henry Rosin, John Fleck, Abraham Andrews (Anders), Hoopert Cassel, John Beam, Sr., David Creble (Kriebel), Paul Custard, John Cassel, Jacob Bustard, Adam Bean, Herman Custer, Mich Rute (Ruth), Peter Johnston, Adam Custard, Andrew Stone, Adam Deamor, John Kingkinger, Jacob Auburn, Christopher Waggoner and Matt. Kulp; whole amount, £889, 10s. Whole amount due from the Fifth Battalion, £5,486.

The large amount of fines, as it seems to be by the above, were paid by the inhabitants of the Fourth and Fifth Battalions, composing the townships of Moreland upper division, Upper and Lower Gwynedd, Montgomery, Whitemarsh, Plymouth, Whitpain, Norrington, Worcester, Upper and Lower Providence.

In Plymouth Zebulon Potts paid £100, Nathan Potts £200, Jesse Wikerline £112, 10s., William Stroud £40, David Brooks £300, John Davis (Snap) £200, Samuel Cocklin £150, John Lyle £100, and Hugh McGinley £54.

In Whitpain Mathias Shoemaker paid £100, Jesse DeHaven £112, 10s., Joseph Hallowell £200, Daniel Yost £450, Edward Roberts £200, John Shay £200, Josiah Dickinson £100, David DeHaven £200, Samuel Coulston £150, and James Egbert £150. The above fines were paid by persons in the fifth and sixth classes, who were absent from militia duty during the years 1777, 1778, 1779 and 1780.

These fines were imposed according to the act of Assembly of that year, which provided that all persons should per-

form militia duty on certain days of the year, and be in readiness in case their services were needed.

Comptroller General's Office, December 24, 1782.—The sum of five per cent. was allowed the collector for collecting. Many of the foregoing named persons, who were fined for not performing militia duty, were not disloyal to their country. Some refused on account of conscience sake; others were so situated that they could not, yet gave the cause all the assistance that they could with money, clothing, and otherwise caring for the poor soldiers, and taking that oath of allegiance, as will be seen by the following certificate:

*Philadelphia County, ss:*

I do hereby certify that John Loesor, of Whitpain, and county aforesaid, weaver, hath voluntarily taken and subscribed the Oath of Allegiance and Fidelity, as directed by an act of General Assembly of Pennsylvania passed the 13th day of June, A. D. 1777. Witness my hand and seal the 30th day of May, A. D. 1778.

SETH QUEE.

Daniel Yost, another citizen of the same township, by occupation a blacksmith, took the prescribed oath during the same year, and filled many responsible positions in his district.

There was another class that would not consent to pay their fines, and aided the British cause in every way possible during the critical period that the British held Philadelphia. They acted as spies, carrying all the information that they could to Gen. Howe, conveying their produce to the city and selling it for British gold, whilst the American army lay at Valley Forge starved, naked and without shelter, notwithstanding the urgent appeals of Gen. Washington for help. This class was very carefully looked after, and were made to pay very dearly for their trouble and pains. "This was doubtless hard on the Tories, but was enforced only upon the more violent and dangerous ones who gave active aid and comfort to the enemy." Their real estate was condemned under a due process of law and their personal property seized, as well as their persons, and in instances executed.

On the 19th day of July, 1778, William Antis, Daniel Hiester, Robert Loller, James Stroud and Archibald Thomp-

son were appointed by the Supreme Executive Council agents for seizing the estates forfeited by traitors and Tories, and all others that assisted the cause of the British government.

In Thompson Westcott's History of Philadelphia it is shown that the following inhabitants of Philadelphia county were attainted as traitors and proclamation made whilst the British were in Philadelphia:

May 8, 1778.—John Roberts, of Lower Merion, miller; Robert Iredale, the younger, and Thomas Iredale, of Horsham, laborer; Joshua Knight, of Abington, blacksmith; John Knight, tanner; Isaac Knight, husbandman; Henry Hugh Ferguson, commissary of prisoners to General Howe. These were ordered to surrender themselves for trial on or before the 25th of June, 1778.

May 21, 1778.—David Potts, of Pottsgrove, son of John Potts; Peter and Jonathan Roberts, sons of Jonathan Roberts, of Whitemarsh; Abraham Iredall, surveyor; James Davis, William Christy, masons; John Roberts, laborer, of Horsham; Joh Roberts, blacksmith; Nathan Carver, wheelwright; Israel Evans, blacksmith, of Upper Dublin; John Huntsman, miller; Robert Conrad, mason; Enoch Supplee, farmer, and William Evans, carpenter, of Norrington; Nicholas Knight, limeburner; John Parker, John Lisle, Robert Lisle, laborers, of Plymouth; Jacob Richardson, carpenter, of Upper Merion; Stephen Steyer, yeoman, of Whitpain. They were ordered to surrender themselves for trial on or before July 6, 1778.

At a meeting of the Supreme Select Council, held at Lancaster, June 15, 1778, Stephen Steyer, yeoman, was ordered to be arrested for high treason; and at a meeting of Council, held at Philadelphia, January 28, 1778, Isaac Taylor, yeoman, and John Robeson, cordwainer, were ordered to be arrested for high treason in aiding and assisting the enemies of the state and of the United States of America by having joined their armies within the state. Stephen Steyer and Isaac Taylor surrendered themselves, and were discharged. John Robeson was tried, found guilty of the charges, and had his property confiscated and sold. The deed for the same reads as follows, as is shown in Colonial Records, Vol. 13, page 309:

To Edward Milne, conveying a certain tract or plantation, situated in Whitpain township, in the county of Philadelphia,

containing seventy-five acres of land, late the estate of John Robeson, an attainted traitor; seized and sold agreeable to law to the said Edward Milne for the sum of seven hundred and fifteen pounds, subject to a yearly ground rent of twenty-one bushels and nine-twentieths part of a bushel of good merchantable wheat, payable to the trustees of the University of this state—three-fourths of which sum the said Edward Milne had paid to the agents of said county, the remaining one-fourth being reserved for the purpose aforesaid. Deed was dated 15th of June, 1782.

The pamphlet referred to contains a statement of the accounts of Colonel George Smith, a sub-lieutenant of the county of Philadelphia, in which is exhibited, for the information of the public, the amount of fines received and accounted for by him between March, 1777, and April, 1780, together with lists of the fines composing the same and the names of the persons from whom received, respectively arranged in companies and classes; likewise the disbursements of those moneys and payment thereof into the treasury.

Here follows some of the most interesting items :

Cash received from the delinquents of the first, second, third, fourth, fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth classes, for non-performance of militia duty, per list of fines, No. 1, £8,545, os., 1½d. Cash received from the delinquents of first, second, third, fourth, fifth and sixth classes of the Fourth Battalion, for non-performance of militia duty when called out, second tour, £18,099, 7s., od. Received from delinquents of the fifth and sixth classes of the Fifth Battalion, placed under his direction after the death of Colonel Thompson, late sub-lieutenant of said district, £12,947, 10s., od. The whole amount of fines received amounted to £55,767, 5s., 10½d. Cash paid between May and November, 1777, to 162 substitutes hired to serve in the several classes of the Fourth Battalion, £4,186, 17s., 6d. Cash paid in the year 1779, for bounty to 91 militiamen, who marched, being the allowance granted by the general assembly, £2,807, 10s., od. Paid sundry persons for taking returns of the militia for services at appeals, ex-prestes and office expenses, £728, 18s., 6d. Cash paid for his own services (Colonel Smith's) as sub-lieutenant between March, 1777, and the 5th of April, 1780, employed 785 days, £1,343, 17s., 6d. Paid for 74 blankets in May and August, 1777, £128, 19s., 6d.

Paid Edward Bartholomew for one blanket, £1, 15s.; paid Isaac Pauling, for services after Tories, June 4, 1777, £3; paid 23 persons for the hire of their blankets, two months in the militia at 5s., October 5, 1777. Cash paid to Thomas Bowers for one gun lost in service, October 15, 1778, £9. Cash paid Captain Hart for warning the militia to march, June 26, No. 86, £3. Captain Mann, ditto, January 6, 1779, £7. Ditto, for provisions received for his company, £7, 12s. Paid Joseph Hart for a blanket lost in service, October 20, 1777, No. 97, £2, 5s. Paid John Fulton for warning the militia to march, January 8, 1779, £1. Paid Joseph Folwel for provisions and for his services warning the militia to march, January 8, 1778, £12, 4s. Paid Josiah Hart, ditto, £7, 18s. Paid David Marpole, ditto, £18, 11s., 6d. Bloom & Morgan, ditto, £9, 12s., 6d. Cash paid Jeremiah Valstein for victuals for the militia, £7, 17s., 6d. Paid Mary Weaved, ditto, £2, 12s., 6d. Tobias Sholl, ditto, £7, 13s., 9d. Paid Jacob Marpole, hauling baggage, £6, 16s. Paid sundry persons for hauling arms, repairing arms, for cartridge paper, making cartridges, collecting arms thrown away at Germantown battle, 14 muskets and one pair of gun straps, £199, 2s., 6d. Archibald Thompson, Esq., sub-lieutenant, on account of fines, £3,088, 12s., 11d. Cash, David Rittenhouse, Treasurer, at sundry times in 1778, 1779 and 1780, £36,763, 19s.

The foregoing are only some of the most interesting items in the statement.



## THE THOMPSON FAMILY AND THE JEFFERSONVILLE INN.

At the intersection of the Egypt with the Ridge turn-pike road, in Norriton township, about a mile from Norristown, there stands an old inn, now known as the Jeffersonville hotel. This was "the house of Hannah Thomson, inn-keeper," mentioned in the act of Assembly of 1784, creating Montgomery county.

The date-stone erected in the peak of the western wall bears this inscription: A. T., 1765. The initials are those of its builder, Archibald Thompson.

Col. Archibald Thompson's parents and grand-parents were early settlers in this neighborhood. They were in all probability of Scotch-Irish descent.

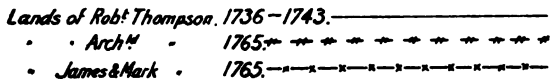
Col. Archibald Thompson's grandfather, whose name was also Archibald Thompson, on March 23, 1742, purchased of Mary Norris, widow of Isaac Norris, one hundred and twenty-six and one-half acres of land; and on October 23, 1743, of Samuel Norris, son of Isaac Norris, deceased, ninety acres, making a total of two hundred and sixteen and one-half acres. These tracts are contiguous, and are situated in Norriton township along the river Schuylkill.

This property is now owned by the estate of William Rittenhouse, the Norristown Land and Improvement Company, and the Riverside Cemetery Company.

Col. Archibald Thompson's grandfather, after his land purchase, immediately set to work to clear a portion of ground of its timber for cultivation, and erect for himself and family a log house.\* This house stood nearby a spring—the present

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\*To this log house later on was erected a stone addition; and subsequently, early in the present century, the original log house was demolished by the Rittenhouse family, and a two-story stone building erected to supersede it. Both of the stone buildings still stand.



**1737 - 1765.**

Scale of Feet: 0 50 100 150 200

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site of the homestead of the late William Rittenhouse. Here Mr. Thompson resided with his family until his death, which took place September 17, 1746, in his 68th year, his wife, Rebecca, and their children, namely, Robert (eldest), James, Samuel, Archibald, Martha, Moses and John, surviving him.

Archibald Thompson, Sr., in his will provided for the support of his widow, by bequeathing to her a bed well furnished, her chest and all of her clothes, with a portion of her household goods; and for her yearly maintenance twenty bushels of good wheat, and pasture and winter feed for two cows. His real estate he bequeathed to his two younger sons—Moses and John Thompson. The remainder of the children all received a share in the personal estate,—from a family Bible to thirty pounds in money.

Samuel Thompson, a son, died September 22, 1746, aged 35 years. He was unmarried and owned an adjoining farm or plantation of one hundred and thirty-seven acres (this land is now owned by James Auld and others). Samuel, at his death, bequeathed his farm and personal effects to his brothers and sister.

Rebecca Thompson, wife of Archibald Thompson, Sr., died November 17, 1748, aged 63 years. Moses Thompson died November 9, 1748, aged 31 years; and John Thompson died November 13, 1748. These brothers were unmarried. The death of the mother and two sons so close together leads one to believe that there was prevailing at that time an epidemic of a fatal nature.

Moses Thompson bequeathed his half interest in the homestead to his brother John, and John in turn bequeathed the entire real estate to his brother, Archibald Thompson.

Archibald Thompson, Jr., retained possession of the farm until May 21, 1773, when he disposed of it to Henry Rittenhouse, of Worcester. The Rittenhouse family are to this day owners of the major part of this plantation. The other part of this farm is now mostly owned by the Norristown Land and Improvement Company.

James Thompson died November 7, 1750, aged 40 years. He died unmarried.

Martha Thompson, the only daughter, married William Bull, June, 1747. At this time Mr. B. was a neighboring land owner and farmer. Martha Bull subsequently resided with her husband on his plantation of nearly two hundred acres, the major portion of which William Bull purchased at public sale in October, 1743. This farm\* is now owned by Dr. Chas. Z. Weber, Hannah Weber and others. William Bull was a man of considerable prominence in his time, and at the time of his death, in 1787, was the owner of four slaves. At this time though he was the owner of and resided on what is now known as James Auld's farm and others.

Robert Thompson, eldest son of Archibald Thompson, Sr., was one of the first settlers in this section of the county. He purchased his first farm five years before his father's land purchase. Robert secured, all told, at intervals, four tracts of land. The first tract he purchased was on September 2, 1737, of Thomas Griffith and wife, Mary (formerly Mary Norris), comprising one hundred acres of land, subject to an annual quit-rent of "thirty-six bushels of good sound and well-dressed winter wheat"—to be paid regularly on or before November 10th of each year.

On October 2, 1743, Robert Thompson purchased of Samuel Norris one tract of land comprising one hundred and twenty acres, and another tract of ten acres of land; total, one hundred and thirty acres, paying therefor £163, 13s, 6d.

On October 8, 1742, Robert Thompson purchased of Richard Harrison a tract of land, consisting of seventy-seven acres, paying therefor £80.

These tracts of land are all located in Norriton and adjoined one another, and comprised a combined acreage of over three hundred. Nearly upon the centre of these tracts of land

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\*This property of William Bull's, previous to 1743, was owned by Samuel Thompson, who borrowed money on the same from the General Loan Office of Philadelphia. Thompson defaulted in the payment of interest, then the trustees seized and sold on execution the said plantation at public vendue, and William Bull became the purchaser.

now stands the "Jeffersonville Inn." The divisions and subdivisions of this plantation into which time, sales, transfers, etc., have cut it as it is to-day, make it somewhat troublesome to trace the original lines. The accompanying draught will greatly assist the reader in tracing and locating the original land marks.

When Robert Thompson made his first purchase in 1737 he had only one adjoining neighbor. This man's name was John Slater, and he was located south of Mr. Thompson, and only a small portion of their lands was contiguous. Slater also secured his land of the Norrises on the leasehold plan; most of this (Slater's) land is now owned by James Auld, Mr. Edward Hibbs residing upon the farm at present.

When Robert Thompson made his purchase of land in 1737 this neighborhood was mainly timber or bush land. As the timber was heavy this early pioneer had many hardships to contend with to shape the soil for cultivation. Stumps and bushes were barriers that were only overcome by sturdy labor. Patience and perseverance, with tireless efforts, in time crowned labor with success. As each season brought forth its new crop additional land would be brought under cultivation, and richer and greater rewards would follow.

Early Robert Thompson erected upon his first purchase of land—the leasehold tract—a dwelling. He selected as a site for this, nearby a spring, centrally located—a few rods west of the present Poth mansion. The house was built of logs, one story high, with one door, one window, and a thatched roof. The one gable end of the house was built of stone, projecting some extent from the main building, and tapering into a large square flue at the top. Beneath the chimney was a huge fire-place. There was but one room on the ground floor, with a ladder stairway leading to the attic above.

Early here Robert Thompson must have lived a life of seclusion, surrounded by naught else but his domesticated stock, and the seclusion and loneliness broken only by an occasional visit of a neighbor.

At this time the Indian and wild beast were no less a companion, and at times were more or less a concern and fear. As the settlers grew more numerous in this neighborhood the fear from these diminished by the extermination of the beast and the retreat of the Indian westward.

As the first several fears of Robert Thompson's loneliness flitted by, a pleasant transition took place about 1740. His home became illumed with the face of a bride. As old Time marked his progress onward the hearthside was brightened with the faces of children. Here sunshine followed shadow. But this sunshine in this dear family was soon followed by shadow. After a short married life Robert Thompson was stricken with death. He died on August 6, 1747, in the fortieth year of his age. His wife, whose name was Mary, survived him with six small children. The names of the children were Archibald (afterwards Colonel), Mark, James, Martha, Agnes and Rebecca. Archibald, who was the oldest child, was in his seventh year at the time of his father's death.

Robert Thompson died intestate. Letters of administration were granted to his widow, Mary Thompson, and his brother, James Thompson, in August, 1747. Among the enumerated articles in the inventory of the personal estate are horses, cows, steers, sheep, hogs, bees, wheat, rye, barley, oats, corn, buckwheat, hay, flax, plows, harrows, and other utensils of husbandry; wool, woolen yarn, wearing apparel, bed, bed clothes, linens, fullled cloth, servants' time, household furniture, etc. There are no wagons given; a riding horse is specified.

The above inventory is a clear indication of the character of husbandry in those days. It depicts the mode of life of these early settlers, and shows conclusively their limited means, and that these self-sacrificing people grew and cultivated on their plantation everything to lessen expense of a variety possible to suit their conditions, and further their limited means.

After Robert Thompson's death I am lead to believe that his widow remained at the homestead with her family until her eldest son, Archibald, became of age, which was about 1761, at which time she married Robert Curry, a neighbor.





# MARKED

I.—ARCHIBALD THOMPSON. } Children, { Robert Thompson—Mary ———  
 { Samuel Thompson, }  
 { Archibald Thompson, } All died single.  
 { Moses Thompson, }  
 { John Thompson, }  
 { Martha Thompson—William Bull.

II.—ROBERT THOMPSON. } Children, { (Col.) Archibald Thompson—Hannah Bartholomew.  
 { Mary Thompson—Ann ———  
 { James Thompson—Sarah Falcomer.  
 { Martha Thompson—James Sheppard.  
 { Agnes Thompson—Thomas Darrack (Darrah).  
 { Rebecca Thompson—William Darrack (Darrah).

III.—COL. ARCHIBALD THOMPSON. } Children, { Sarah Thompson—Archibald Darrah.  
 { Hannah Thompson (Wife). } Robert Thompson—Died single.  
 { Mary Thompson—James Hamill.  
 { Joseph Thompson—Elizabeth ———  
 { Mark Thompson—Nancy ———  
 { Benjamin Thompson—Elizabeth Stroud.  
 { Archibald Thompson.

Robert Curry's farm of one hundred and eight acres of land adjoined widow Thompson's to the southeast, to which place she then removed with her family. The major portion of the plantation of Robert Curry now belongs to William Gross, who lately purchased the same of F. A. Poth.

Robert Curry was an early emigrant from Ireland, and purchased his farm of Charles Norris, in 1754. He was a man of more than ordinary ability, and during the war of Independence was an active patriot, and filled a number of positions both in civil and military life. On account of the active part Col. Robert Curry took in the revolutionary war he was much despised by the neighboring tories, who were bent, on several occasions, on doing him untold injury.

Robert Curry died November 9, 1794, aged 60 years. Mary Curry, his wife, died April 9, 1804, aged 97 years. Mrs. Curry and her two husbands are buried side by side in the old Norriton burying ground, one tablet with three inscriptions cut upon it marking the three graves. By the second marriage of Mary Thompson (widow of Robert Thompson) with Robert Curry there was no issue. She, Mary Curry, was her husband's senior by twenty-seven years.

Robert Curry was a man who highly respected and dutifully cared for his step-children, and after his death remembered them all considerably in his will.

As the children of Robert Thompson grew to manhood and womanhood they all married. Mark Thompson, whose wife's name was Ann, settled in Sussex county, N. J., at store keeping. James Thompson married Sarah Falconer, February 15, 1768, and settled in Chester county. Martha Thompson married James Sheppard and settled in Plymouth, Montgomery county, Pa. Agnes Thompson married Thomas Darrock and settled in Bucks county, Pa. Rebecca Thompson married William Darrock, February 12, 1760, and settled in Bucks county, Pa.

The Thompsons were all educated people—that is, they could read and write. They were all able to subscribe their names to documents in a plain and legible manner, with the

exception of Mary Thompson, widow of Robert, who invariably made her mark. As there were no public schools in this neighborhood in those days the probabilities are that these children were taught the rudiments of education at home by those of the family capable of doing so.

In December, 1762, Archibald Thompson, son of Robert Thompson, deceased, petitioned the Orphans' Court, of Philadelphia (which he was entitled to do by law of the province, he being twenty-one years of age), praying for an inquest to value his father's estate of three hundred acres of land, situate in Norriton township, with the improvements thereon, and at such valuation to have the same adjudged to him. One hundred and ninety-seven acres of this land Robert Thompson, deceased, possessed in fee, and one hundred acres he possessed as a leasehold estate. Archibald Thompson agreed to pay therefor six hundred and twenty pounds and eleven shillings and assume the leasehold rental.

On March 23, 1763, Archibald Thompson sold the one hundred acres of the leasehold estate, and also the southwestward part of the tract of one hundred and twenty acres (the land that Robert Thompson purchased of Samuel Norris), making a total of one hundred and eighty and one-half acres, to Archibald Thompson (uncle) and William Bull (uncle), guardians, in trust for Archibald Thompson's brothers, James and Mark Thompson, who were at this time minors, Archibald Thompson reserving for himself (about) one hundred and thirty acres.

James and Mark Thompson retained possession of their property until July 10, 1772, when they sold the same to Abraham Bayer (alias Baer).

At this time it is believed a house stood on the land reserved by Archibald Thompson (known as the Harrison tract), at the corner of what is (now) the Ridge and Whitehall road. Who built this house I am unable to learn. The oldest inhabitants in the neighborhood say, when they were small children it was considered a very old house, and that they remember it being said that it was early occupied by the Thomp-

sons. This house may have been built by Richard Harrison or his tenants previous to 1742, the time that Robert Thompson purchased the same of Richard Harrison.

Mr. Charles H. Shaw now owns the land. Several years ago he had occasion to demolish this old dwelling to make room for a more modern building. This old structure was a small, low, two-story building, with one room on each floor. The walls were built of stone, the lumber in its construction of oak, and all of the hardware, such as nails, hinges, locks, bolts, etc., was hand or forge made. The walls inside were plastered, and cut straw was used in the mortar; and after the plastering was removed the walls bore the appearance of the building having been occupied many years before it was plastered at all.

Archibald Thompson selected the western intersection of the Egypt with the Ridge roads as the building site for his proposed inn. These roads, early in the history of this section of the country (or at the time, 1765), were leading thoroughfares, and were much used by the settlers and the travelling public.

In 1737 the "Egypt road" was known as the "road leading from New Providence to the Norriton mills";\* afterwards "Perquimony road," and still later the Egypt road. The Ridge road is also a very old thoroughfare—it was early, say 1733, or before, known as the "great road leading to Norriton mills"; later, "Lower Perquimony road"; "Manatawny road," and still later "Ridge road," etc.

This tavern site, in 1765, comparatively speaking, was isolated. The building was erected in the woods, and at this time in a sparsely-settled neighborhood. But regardless of all this, the future proved the importance of the location of the inn for its intended purpose.

It is said that as early as 1760 it required between eight and nine thousand wagons alone to carry the produce from

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\*The "Norriton mills" referred to above were situated on Stony run (creek), and erected early in the eighteenth century. This mill was much patronized by the early settlers in this community—to which to take their cereals to have them ground into flour grists, etc.

the rural districts into the city of Philadelphia.\* The outlying districts of Philadelphia were at this time rapidly becoming populated with settlers. The travellers on their way to prospective settlements, the inhabitants on their journey to the county seat on business or pleasure, the teams transporting goods and produce to and from the inland settlements—these and many other motives led to travel, for which the innkeepers in those days were expected to furnish provender and a place for rest. The public house of Archibald Thompson early became noted for its hospitality; as this tavern provided full and plenty for all comers, it soon received a large share of patronage from the travelling public.

The following description of this property is copied from an old sale-bill, printed in 1805. As there had been but few changes in the buildings of this property since Archibald Thompson's time, I think this description timely here. "The buildings are a large and commodious two-story stone house, with four rooms on the first floor and six on the second (a large attic above), with a double piazza in front and a kitchen with a single piazza back; a barn, hay stable, and sheds sufficient to accommodate one hundred horses; a milk-house over a spring of water convenient to said buildings," etc.

Nearly all the said buildings are still standing. The dwelling to-day is the same as it was erected originally with the exception of the removal within of the large, old-style fire places, and a few other minor changes. Externally the appearance of the building lately has been improved by its present owner, except in its general contour, which is as it always was. The original sheds now form Jefferson Hall; the barn is part of the store property; and the spring spoken of is located on Jackson W. Miller's land, and the building erected over the same has since gone to decay from age.

Archibald Thompson secured his innkeeper's license from the Court of Philadelphia early in the year 1766. In conjunction with the innkeeping business he farmed his plantation,

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\*History of Montgomery county.

as the inventory of his estate in 1779 clearly proves; and this pursuit of husbandry he conducted rather extensively, as the inventory of his estate at his death speaks of thirty acres of wheat and rye in the ground.

June 4, 1766, Archibald Thompson was married to Hannah Bartholomew, a worthy companion and a great help mate, which subsequent time and condition proved. The trials and discomforts this couple passed through together with their family of small children during the revolutionary period were many and at times distressing.

Scarcely a decade of married life passed over this family when the Revolutionary war broke forth. We early find Archibald Thompson enlisted in the American cause. He was a firm patriot, and he sacrificed business, pleasure and health for the freedom and independence of his country.

After the passage of the stamp act by England, March 22, 1765, the American people rose up in stern antagonism to the same. The American Congress made its last appeal in 1775 to England to repeal the same before resorting to arms. The Assembly unanimously approved the action of Congress. A committee of correspondence was appointed June 18, 1774, for the city and county of Philadelphia with instructions to take the sense of the people in reference to the appointment of delegates to a general Congress. In May, 1775, this committee of correspondence was still in authority, but their power being questionable they recommended that at the next general election a new committee should be regularly chosen—one of sixty-seven members for the city—one of forty-two members for the county; and Archibald Thompson was one of the number chosen for the said county.

In January, 1777, at the battle of Princeton whole companies of militia deserted, which led to the abandonment of the old associated troops within this state as unreliable. Then followed further reorganization of the militia, and we early find Archibald Thompson in the military field enrolled as captain of troops in "Flying Camp."

As the militia in this state in the past had proved itself so ineffective, Assembly in the spring of 1777 passed a militia bill to do away with the Associators. By said law the counties and cities were divided into districts, each to contain not less than six hundred and forty, nor more than six hundred and eighty men fit for military duty. There were lieutenants and sub-lieutenants for each district; Philadelphia county being divided into eight parts or battalions, each district electing its own colonel, lieutenant colonel, major, captain and subalterns. The lieutenant enlisted the people, collected the fines, and executed the details of the law. The companies were divided into classes by lot, provision being made to call out the classes as wanted.

Under this law the officers appointed for Philadelphia county were: William Coates, lieutenant; Jacob Engle, Samuel Dewees, George Smith, Archibald Thompson and William Antes sub-lieutenants.

Agreeably to the directions of said law the lieutenants and sub-lieutenants were to attend the election in the several districts for field officers. Lieutenant Archibald Thompson was one of the officers who served in this capacity; who filed their return of said election with the Supreme Executive Council of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, April 22, 1777.

Lieutenant Archibald Thompson at the same election was chosen lieutenant colonel of the Fifth Battalion district, comprising the townships of Norrington, Whitemarsh, Plymouth, Whitpain, Worcester and New Providence. Robert Curry\* was elected colonel, and John Edwards† major of this battalion. These officers' commissions were dated May 6, 1777.

On the 23d of September, 1777, the British, while giving chase to General Washington and his troops after their defeat at the battle of Brandywine, as they, the Americans, retreated in the direction of Warwick furnace and Pottstown, General

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\*Colonel Robert Curry was Lieutenant Colonel Archibald Thompson's step-father by marriage and a resident of Norriton.

†Major John Edwards at this time was a prosperous and influential farmer who resided on a plantation in New Providence township now owned and occupied by Mr. Albert Crawford, near Shannonville.

Howe with his troops crossed the Schuylkill at Fatland (Valley Forge) and Gordon's (Phoenixville) Fords, marching in the direction of Philadelphia. A portion of General Howe's army camped for the night on the north side of Stony run (creek), Norristown.

At this time Colonel Thompson was home, sick, and confined to his bed. When it was learned by those about him of the enemy's approach he was gathered up in the bed clothes, carried from his room and securely hidden in the leaves and bushes near the creek in the woods some distance west of the inn.\* The British searched for Colonel Thompson; their labors were in vain, and they retaliated by applying a torch to the inn and partly burning the building. †For this damage done Colonel Thompson by the British the State in 1782 allowed his widow Hannah Thompson £807.

Colonel Thompson was grieved and angered at the wanton destruction of his property by the British; nevertheless he immediately set to work and had the damaged property rebuilt.

That the Tories in the neighborhood were active in aiding and abetting the royal cause at the expense and distress of the active patriots, such as pointing out the homes and plantations and rendering other assistance to the British troops while here, plainly showed itself by the destruction of other property that took place at the same time.

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\*The exact location of this hiding place as near as I can learn, was close by the tenant house, now owned by John Thomas, near a branch of Indian creek, west of Jeffersonville.

†As confirmatory evidence of the destruction of said building at this time by the British I copy the following extract taken from German MS.—a journal kept at that date by H. M. Muhlenberg. Mr. Muhlenberg's residence at that time was at the Trappe in New Providence. Entry dated Wednesday, September 24, 1777: "A portion of the British army is still lying about five miles southeast from our house, and to-day the American army is coming back from New Hanover. Toward evening we saw several high rising smokes and are informed that the British have burned the houses of militia officers. \* \*—Life of Major-General P. Muhlenberg, page 344.



The following extract of a letter\* explains the exasperated condition these loyal sufferers were wrought into for the future protection of their property and families :

"COL. JOSEPH REED TO PRESIDENT WHARTON.†

"HEADQUARTERS, JAMES NORRIS', 17 MILES FROM  
"PHILADELPHIA, ON THE SKIPPAK ROAD, OCTOBER 30TH, 1777. }

"Sir: — \* \* \* The seizure of the estates of those who join the enemy is highly necessary and I think it should extend to those who voluntarily serve them as spies, guides, pilots, or execute other offices under them. The burning of houses who act vigorously in the militia, receive stores, etc., is attended with the most ruinous consequences and ought to be prevented by all possible means. I have mentioned it here, but amidst other business it has not been sufficiently attended to. It appears to me to be an indispensable duty of the board at which you preside to protect as much as possible those who are employed in your service. I would beg leave to propose that immediate application to be made to Congress for an instruction to Gen. Washington to write General Howe upon the subject, specifying Col. Thompson, Col. Dewees and Col. Bull, and threatening immediate retaliation if any such outrage is committed in the future. It is the more necessary that these sufferers talk loudly of taking the matter into their own hands, and I need not describe the disorder and consequences that might ensue should that be the case. I don't think the loss of two or three houses to be compared to the advantages that would result from a security to our vigorous and active friend against so distressing calamity. \* \* \* "

Washington, after his defeat at Germantown, retired with his army to Whitemarsh; thence, after some delay, on December 17, 1777, he went into winter quarters at Valley Forge. A line of videttes were placed on the Ridge road toward Philadelphia, and Colonel Thompson's inn was selected for the quarters of one of these outposts. The hotel buildings gave shelter and protection from the severe weather to those troops that were on duty here.

This inn, situated as it is in close proximity to Valley Forge, was undoubtedly frequented by many of the American troops during this sad winter's encampment. Without a doubt all visiting troopers received their share of attention at the hands of these kind people, associated in the same cause—the best that a public house could afford under the trying circum-

\*Life and correspondence of President Joseph Reed, Vol. i, p. 332.

†Thomas Wharton, Jr., was at this time presiding officer of the Supreme Executive Council.

stances existing in this section at that time. Some touching and heart-rending stories might here be told in relation to the trying and denying times of these distressed people, if such were not lost with the forgotten and unrecorded events of fleeting time.

The Assembly of this state secured its first quorum at Lancaster in the second week in October, 1777. One of the first acts of this body, after convening, was the passage of an act creating a "Council of Safety," and investing this body with extraordinary powers in view of the enemy's presence, especially to seize property, levy troops and punish traitors. This newly created council sat from October 17th to December 6th, 1777, and was then dissolved. One of the first acts of this appointed body was the passage of a confiscation ordinance directed against the "personal estates" of such of the inhabitants of this commonwealth who had abandoned their families or habitations and joined or should join the British army, or who supplied it with provisions, intelligence or other aid. For the county of Philadelphia, Col. Archibald Thompson was appointed one of the commissioners to carry the said act in effect.

The following letter explains itself:\*

"PHILADELPHIA COUNTY, NOVEMBER THE 18TH, 1777.

"*Sirs* :--As we, the subscribers, together with James Stroud and Daniel Heister, are appointed by the honorable council of safety, commissioners for the purpose of seizing on the personal estates of such of the inhabitants of the county of Philadelphia as have or hereafter shall abandon their families or habitations to join the army of the King of Great Britain, etc. And as the same James Stroud refuses to serve as a commissioner for said purpose, and said Daniel Heister hath been for a considerable time past out of the state on business, and it is not known when he will return, therefore as there appears to us much business to be done by the commissioner of this county, we request the Honorable Council, if they think proper, to add Col. William Dean, Dr. Archibald McLean, and Col. George Smith to the number of commissioners already appointed for the county of Philadelphia,

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\*Penna. Archives, p. 13, 1777—1st series.

which, if the council sees proper to do, certificate of their appointment should be sent them as soon as possible, for we have need of their services immediately.

"We are, sir, with the greatest,

"Your most obedient, humble servants,

"ROBERT LOLLER,

"WILLIAM ANTES,

"ARCHIBALD THOMPSON.

"P. S.—If they are appointed we would be glad that if you could send certificate of appointment by bearer of this letter.

"To His Excellency, Thomas Wharton, President of the Supreme Executive Council.

"Express."

The tone and the character of the above written letter imply that the undersigned commissioners were bent on performing with vigor their ascribed or assigned duties.

The Supreme Executive Council in session at Lancaster, Wednesday, May 6, 1778,\* took into consideration the appointment of commissioners or agents, agreeably to an act of General Assembly, entitled an "Act for the Attainder of Divers Traitors, etc., within the Commonwealth of Penna." Among the named persons appointed to carry said act of forfeited estate into effect for and in the county of Philadelphia, was Colonel Archibald Thompson.

At a meeting of the Supreme Executive Council† at Philadelphia, on Thursday, July 23, 1778, Colonel Thompson and Colonel Antes, two of the agents for seizing forfeited estates, represented that the said duty was too great and extensive to be executed by them alone; Colonel Heister having declined to serve, on consideration, ordered "that Col. John Moore, Capt. Joseph Blewer and Mr. George Smith be appointed agents for seizing and disposing of the forfeited estates according to law, in addition to the agents already appointed for the county of Philadelphia.

It was stated at the meeting of the Supreme Executive Council at Lancaster, on Wednesday, February 18, 1778, that Lieutenant William Coates, of the county of Philadelphia, was then a prisoner with the enemy. "Ordered, that Colonel

\*Colonial Records, p. 479, Vol. xi.

†Colonial Records, p. 537, Vol. xi.

Archibald Thompson, sub-Lieutenant of the county of Philadelphia, be authorized and empowered to act in behalf of the said Colonel Coates as Lieutenant,\* and to exert himself in recovering the substitution money in that county which greatly is wanted for recruiting services."

Colonel Archibald Thompson continued to act as Lieutenant for the county of Philadelphia for over one year—until Colonel Coates' exchange was effected, which took place on March 29, 1779.

The following is a letter from President Joseph Reed to Col. Archibald Thompson:†

"IN COUNCIL, PHILADELPHIA, DEC. 4TH, 1778.

"*Sir*.:—The council having received word from Col. Wall, Lieutenant of the county of Bucks, that a class of militia of that county has yielded but about one hundred men, there is too much reason to fear that the militia of Philadelphia county will also fall greatly short of the number expected from the class already ordered, and as a delay of 5 or 6000 men, even for a few days, in a place where proper provision has not been made for them, would be attended with alarming consequences, and eat up the country around them for a considerable distance, the council finds themselves under the necessity to order out, and you are hereby to call out two or more classes of militia of this county from the same Battalion out of which the last call was made, and march them with all possible expedition to Sherrard's Ferry.

"The council sees and laments the great hardship it is to the \* \* to have so many classes called out at one time, and so suddenly, but the service must be performed, and immediately, and it is evident that the remissness of those already called renders the present order indispensably necessary.

"Your zeal, &c. (as in letter to Col. Wall).

"The enclosed letter from Col. Blane, to whose conduct the convention troops are committed, will inform you of the route they take, and his orders are to be obeyed.

"Your obedient servant,

"JOSEPH REED.

"To Col. Archibald Thompson, Lieutenant of Philada. county."

The letter to Colonel Wall above noted is from V. P. George Bryan, dated November 26, 1778. It has reference to a letter from His Excellency, George Washington, through the Board of War for four or five hundred militia, to guard the prisoners taken at Saratoga through this state on their

\*Penna. Archives, Vol. 3, p. 221—2d series.

†Colonial Records, p. 419, Vol. I.

way southward. Their intended march was by way of Reading, Lancaster and Hanover.

At the general election held in Philadelphia county on the 12th day of October, 1779, Col. Archibald Thompson was elected a member of General Assembly for the State of Pennsylvania. The Assembly met for reorganization October 25, 1779. On account of illness Colonel Thompson was never able to be present at any of its meetings to take the oath of office. He died November 19, 1779, in the thirty-ninth year of his age. At a special election held November 26, 1779, Joseph Blewer was elected to fill the vacancy in General Assembly caused by the death of Archibald Thompson, Esq.

Col. Archibald Thompson was ever active and must have been an extremely busy man during the revolutionary period. We find him all at one time as agent to confiscate real and personal estates of tories, Lieutenant of the county of Philadelphia, and Lieutenant Colonel of the troops of the Fifth Battalion district. All of these commissions during the exciting times of war were important to fill, and involved much labor. To perform each as occasion demanded necessitated considerable time and forbearance; besides, there were Colonel Thompson's private interests, his inn and plantation, that needed personal supervision and attention. Probably it was these associated cares and trials, with the great physical endurance and exposure that this faithful man was subjected to from so much horseback riding, etc., that led him, just in the prime of life to an early grave.

A wife (Hannah) and seven small children survived Colonel Thompson at the time of his death. The children's names were Sarah, Robert, Joseph, Mark, Benjamin, Archibald and Mary.

Colonel Thompson's remains lie interred in the old Norriton (Presbyterian) burying ground. The following inscription is cut on the tablet marking the grave:

"He was a tender husband and indulgent father,  
A firm patriot, and a friend to the distressed."

No more fitting words in brevity could be written indicative of this good and noble man's trait of character than these two lines. They are pathetic, filled with much expression, and placed there by one who sadly mourned the loss.

Col. Archibald Thompson, in his day, was a man of considerable intelligence and prominence, and of more than ordinary ability. He enjoyed the confidence and respect of the community in which he lived and in general. He was ever alert and active in any local or general affairs productive of public good.

Colonel Thompson died intestate. Hannah Thompson (widow), Mark Thompson (brother), and John Bartholomew (father-in-law), of Chester county, administered to the estate.

The inventory of the personal property of Col. Archibald Thompson, deceased, was quite large, and of great variety. A few of the enumerated articles are: "Five horses (a riding horse), five cows, steers, swine, riding chair and harness, wagons, sleds, harness, saddle bridle, saddle bag, holsters and pistols, farming utensels, corn, wheat, rye, oats, buckwheat, flaxseed, hay, straw; houshold furniture (in great variety), two wheels and reels, watch, desk, rifles, horn, cortridge box," etc.

As the inventory was made in 1779, in the midst of exciting times of the revolutionary war, Pennsylvania currency had depreciated very much in its value, and the appraisers were in the necessity of filing two valuations to their appraisal, one column figuring the valuation in Pennsylvania currency in 1779, and the other as the valuation would have been in 1774. The depreciation of the Pennsylvania currency at this time was about three hundred per cent. Major John Edwards and William Rees were the appraisors.

The widow never filed a settlement of the estate, but kept her family together, and continued at the innkeeping and farming until her death in 1789. In 1780, and thereafter until her death, the hotel license was annually granted in the name of Hannah Thompson.

Widow Thompson conducted a successful business at innkeeping. Necessity fashioned her for the position, and the

business grew under her administration. She provided for her children a good education—a good one comparatively speaking for those days considering the disadvantages of attaining such.

By act of Assembly in 1784 Montgomery county was created from Philadelphia county. Section 4 of said act reads thus \* \* “At the same time the freemen of said county (Montgomery) shall meet at the house of Hannah Thompson, innkeeper, in the township of Norriton, and there elect representatives,” etc.

In compliance with the above law the freemen of Montgomery county convened at the public house of Hannah Thompson in 1784, and elected the following named officers: Members of State Legislature—Peter Richards, Robert Loller, George Smith and Benjamin Rittenhouse; Sheriff, Zebulon Potts, Esq.; Coroner, Conrad Beyer; Councillor, Daniel Heister.

At this time Montgomery county was but one election district, and the voters from all over the county were required to assemble at this appointed place to cast their ballots. The general election of Montgomery county was held at the public house of Hannah Thompson for 1784 and 1785. After the completion of the new court house, in Norristown, in 1785, the general elections of the county were held there until the county later on was divided into more election districts.

Widow Thompson died November 4, 1789, in the forty-second year of her age. Seven children survived her. She was interred beside the remains of her husband in the old Norriton (Presbyterian) burial ground. She died intestate. Sarah Thompson was the oldest child, and Robert Thompson the oldest son. Robert being of age administered to the estate; the personal property was quite large and of great variety.

Robert Thompson, being the oldest son, made application to the Orphans' Court, Norristown, February 11, 1790, to have the real estate of his father (Archibald Thompson, deceased) appraised and adjudged to him; which in due time

and process of law was done. The appraised value of the same, with the improvements thereon, was seven pounds, eleven shillings and eight pence per acre.

All the children of Col. Archibald Thompson, deceased, at the time of their mother's death, were minors, with the exception of Sarah and Robert. As there was considerable estate to be apportioned among them the Orphans' Court at Norristown was petitioned to appoint guardians. Col. Robert Curry was appointed guardian for Mary; Major John Edwards was appointed guardian for Benjamin, Archibald and Mark; and Zebulon Potts, Esq., was appointed guardian for Joseph.

In 1791 the innkeepers' license was granted in the name of Robert Thompson. Robert Thompson at this time was an officer in the United States army. His first appointment was an ensign of an infantry regiment commanded by Colonel Josiah Harmer. His commission was dated September 29, 1789, and on June 4, 1791, he was promoted to a first lieutenantcy, which commission he resigned January 10, 1792. After a short respite Robert Thompson again entered the army service; he was appointed first lieutenant of infantry, March 5, 1792; assigned to Fourth Sub-Legion, September 4, 1792; promoted to captaincy, April 17, 1793. He was assigned to the Fourth United States Infantry November 1, 1796, and resigned his commission November 20, 1799.

Of Capt. Robert Thompson's military life I know nothing with the exception of a letter published by him in the *Norristown Gazette*, in 1799, noting him on duty at that time on the frontier in Tennessee.

Capt. Robert Thompson never married, and died intestate, in the early part of March, 1801; his four brothers, namely, Mark, Benjamin, Joseph, and Archibald, and two sisters, Sarah and Mary, surviving him. Archibald Darrah (a brother-in-law), Mark and Benjamin Thompson, administered to the estate. His personal effects were few—a sorrel (riding) horse, saddle and bridle, gun, pistols, hostlers' disk, desk and a few sundry accounts. The estate showed clearly the chosen vocation this man followed.



Although the innkeepers' license was granted in the name of Robert Thompson, 1791, I don't think this man ever personally conducted this inn. Robert, about 1791, rented the inn to Archibald Darrah. The court annually thereafter granted the said license in the name of Archibald Darrah until 1804.

Archibald Darrah, early in his hotel career, married Sarah Thompson, Robert's sister, to whom later on three children were born, namely, Hannah, Rebecca and Mary.

On July 12, 1801, Archibald Darrah purchased from the heirs (brothers and sisters) of Capt. Robert Thompson, deceased, the inn and one hundred and thirty acres of land therewith, paying therefor twenty-four hundred pounds lawful gold or silver. Mr. Darrah retained possession of this property until 1810, when he disposed of the same to Isaac Markley, of Limerick township.

Archibald Darrah personally conducted this inn until 1803, in which year he rented the same to Frederick Hallman, of Worcester. Mr. Darrah completed in 1803 the erection of a stone dwelling house on a knoll on his lands southeast of the inn, on the south side of Ridge turnpike, to which place he then removed with his family. This dwelling is now owned by Mr. George Garrett.

About this time the sign-post, with Thomas Jefferson's portrait painted upon it, made its appearance. The post upon which the sign swung stood in the woods on the south side of Egypt road, opposite the hotel. As this community was rich in great admirers of Thomas Jefferson, undoubtedly this emblem of their favorite swinging in the breezes was hailed with much joy and admiration.

Frederick Hallman continued as renter of the inn for two years, when he was succeeded on April 1, 1805, by Jacob Wykle (Weikle). Wykle remained but one year, when on April 1, 1806, he was followed by Samuel Patterson.

In 1805 Archibald Darrah advertised the inn at private sale, "with eighty acres of land, twenty-six whereof are woodland; fourteen acres of natural meadow land, and the rest handsomely divided into fields and all under clover. The stand

is located in Norriton township, at the junction of the Lancaster and Reading post roads; nineteen miles from Philadelphia and two miles from Norristown; equal if not superior to any stand between Philadelphia and Reading \* \* "

Samuel Patterson remained here as renter for two years. On May 4, 1806, a meeting of the Democratic Vigilance Committee was held at his place; Major John Armstrong was appointed chairman of the meeting; John McFarland, secretary, and Stephen Porter, treasurer.

On November 15, 1806, the Democratic Republicans of Montgomery county convened at the public house of Samuel Patterson, in Norriton township, "for the purpose of taking in consideration the propriety of forwarding a respectful address to Thomas Jefferson, requesting him to suffer his name to be supported for the presidency at the ensuing presidential election," etc. Nathaniel B. Boileau, Andrew Porter, Jonathan Roberts, Jr., Andrew Norney and Peter Richards were appointed a committee to draft a suitable address. \* \* Stephen Porter was chairman, and Jonathan Roberts, Jr., secretary of the meeting.

An address in due time was draughted, and at a subsequent meeting, held also at this inn, was approved and then forwarded to President Thomas Jefferson.

In the Norristown *Register* of June 1, 1807, appears the following communication: "Ye supporters of American freedom, peace and independence turn out to celebrate the ever memorable day (at Samuel Patterson's) and do honor to the man who was author of the glorious manifesto, which severed America from British tyranny and oppression."

In the Norristown *Register* of June 24, 1807, appears the following notice: "A number of Democratic Republicans have agreed to dine at Mr. Samuel Patterson's (Jefferson inn) on the 4th day of July, next, \* \* to celebrate the anniversary of that day which hailed our country free and independent. \* \* "

Agreeably to the above notice a "respectable number" of Democratic Republicans convened at the public house of

Samuel Patterson, "to commemorate the memorable event. After dinner a president and two vice-presidents being appointed, seventeen toasts were drank. This was a memorable occasion, and a jolly good time enjoyed by all present."

On December 2, 1807, the "Light Infantry Blues" were ordered to convene at the house of Samuel Patterson, innkeeper, Norriton, completely equipped, thence to proceed to Norristown according to brigade orders. Samuel Gross, Captain.

This is the first record that I have been able to find in print of a military organization convening at this hotel for drill or other purposes; although local military troops (I am led to believe) convened at this place at intervals ever since such local organizations existed in this county.

For the years 1808, 1809 and 1810 John Benjamin became innkeeper as renter of the Jefferson inn.

June 29, 1808, the following notice appeared in the *Norristown Register*: "At a meeting of the Democratic Republicans, held at the house of John Benjamin, in Norriton township, on Tuesday, June 28, 1808, David Dewees was appointed chairman, and Archibald Darrah secretary, for the purpose of taking in consideration measures to commemorate the anniversary of American Independence. A communication was presented at the meeting, stating that there were a number of Democratic citizens who would gladly participate on the occasion were it not for interference of the harvest. \* \* \* Agreeably to the meeting the celebration was postponed to take place on the 12th day of August. John McFarland, Joseph Crawford, Isaiah Wells, Mathew Roberts, James Winnard, Archibald Darrah and Thomas Humphrey be a committee of arrangements for the day."

In due time the celebration took place, and the *Register* of August 17, 1808, contains the following record of the event:

"COMMEMORATION OF AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE.

Agreeably to previous arrangements, this glorious event was celebrated on the farm of Mr. John Benjamin, in Norriton

township, on the 12th inst., by nearly four hundred Democratic Republicans. The Republican Troop of Cavalry, commanded by Captain Wells, and the Lower Merion Republican Blues, commanded by Captain West, attended in full uniform. The cavalry and infantry assembled in Norristown, and after a march of two miles arrived at the place of rendezvous precisely at twelve o'clock. At three the company sat down to a handsome entertainment prepared by Mr. Benjamin. Gen. Henry Scheetz was appointed president, and Major Andrew Norney vice-president. The cloth being removed the Declaration of Independence was read by John McFarland, to an audience deeply penetrated by sentiments of gratitude towards the patriots who dared to conceive and publish, with magnanimity, that declaration so honorable to human nature, in the face of powerful and hostile armies.

"The Republican Blues having formed under arms seventeen regular and seven volunteer toasts\* were drank; some with three cheers and one volley; some with six cheers and two and three volleys; some with nine cheers with one, two and three volleys. \* \* \*

"The company having rose from the table were entertained with a display of evolutions performed by the cavalry and infantry in a spirited manner. The cavalry exhibited the evolution of charging both with sword and pistol; and the infantry performed the charge in column in a style particularly happy. At sunset the military displayed before the house of Mr. Benjamin, and firing a salute which the citizens returned with three cheers, when they retired in the order in which they arrived. The company having spent the day in the greatest hilarity and harmony dispersed with

'Hearts resolved and hands prepared,  
The blessings they enjoy to guard.'

"Too high praise cannot be given to the infantry corps; many of them attending at a distance of twelve miles on foot; of which number was Captain West, and remained under arms nearly the whole day. \* \* \*

On September 10, 1808, a meeting of Democratic young men of Montgomery county, was held at the house of John Benjamin for the purpose of making arrangements preparatory

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\*The "regular" toasts at all of these celebrations were as many as the then existing states—or thirteen, the number of the original states of the union. The "volunteer" toasts were unlimited, and were usually outbursts of expression of sentiments formulated by the guests for the occasion.

to the ensuing general election. A great effort was put forward at this meeting toward naming and getting into active shape a good working committee. The Committee of Vigilance appointed at this meeting for the county was composed of not less than seventy-four members.

On August 12, 1808, I find recorded the convening of the Democratic Republican Troop of Montgomery county (later known as the First Troop\*), at the house of John Benjamin, in Norriton township, in full uniform, for drill, etc. This military troop at this time, and for a long time afterwards, was considered the "crack" military organization of the kind in Eastern Pennsylvania. The three essential features required of each applicant before joining were: first, good citizenship; second, good horsemanship; third, a good horse. For a long while previous to this time, I believe, and up to the disbandment of the troop in 1861, the outbreak of the civil war, was this hotel greatly used by this troop for one of its favorite places of meeting for drill and the transaction of routine business.

In 1809 we find John Benjamin, innkeeper, Captain of the Light Infantry Blues, a local military organization.

On February 10, 1810, was a gala day at the Jefferson Inn for the neighboring sportsmen. A great fox-chase took place here, and the fox was set free from the inn. A general invitation was extended to all neighboring fox hunters to be present.†

\*"The First Troop of Montgomery County Cavalry is one of the oldest troops in this Commonwealth. First embodied between the periods of 1795 and 1798 under the command of Captain Kennedy." An extract from an address delivered before the troop in the Court House, Norristown, August 23, 1841, by Francis Dimond, Esq. *Norristown Register*, September 8, 1841.

†An advertisement of the same was published in the *Norristown Register* February 10, 1810, in the following novel poetic form:

"A LARGE RED FOX AM I.

"Come all ye sportsmen, bold and free,  
Your horses and hounds, too,  
On Monday next at 10 o'clock,  
I'll show myself to you.

"I am a bold old traveller as ever you have seen;  
As for my age, I do not know but I think it is fifteen,  
I challenge each and every one, so therefore don't lay by,  
As I shall be prepared for you; my bottom for to try."

On March 25, 1810 the Jefferson Inn, with eighty acres of land, was deeded by Archibald Darrah and his wife Sarah to Isaac Markley, of Limerick township. Consideration, £3,750 lawful gold and silver. Archibald Darrah reserved fifty acres of land, with the improvements thereon, it being the southeastern portion of the original tract of land. The line of division was but a few rods below the hotel.

With this sale of the Jefferson Inn, with the land thereto belonging, to Isaac Markley, this property passed out of the ownership of the Thompson family, as Archibald Darrah and his wife (Sarah Thompson) were the last of the Thompsons who owned and occupied said property.

Archibald Darrah was a prominent and popular man at the innkeeping business in his day. He was a man above the average in ability and his worth to the community was early shown by the interest he took in public affairs. He loaned his influence and means to all early innovations that were agitated for general or public good.

We find Archibald Darrah in 1803 one of the number of progressive citizens of this community loaning his aid and influence for the establishment in Norristown of an academy "for the education of the youth." He assisted materially in the creation of the public school in Norriton, known at that time as "the public school in Norriton near Darrah's hotel." He filled the position of trustee of this school for several years.

Mr. Darrah early associated himself with the militia, and held various commissions in such for many years. He was a man strongly opinionated in politics—a firm Democratic Republican. During the Jefferson campaign Mr. D. waxed warm in support of his favorite. He went into this campaign body and soul, and labored untiringly for Jefferson's success. Many a secret caucus was held during this campaign by the staunch supporters of Jefferson of this community within the confines of the walls of this inn, and Mr. Darrah was topmost, urging onward party success.

Archibald Darrah in 1809 was appointed by Governor Snyder Recorder of Deeds and Register of Wills for the county of Montgomery; to which position he was reappointed annually for nine consecutive years. In 1809 he was also appointed by the Governor one of the commissioners for the erection of a bridge over the Schuylkill at Pawling's ford, etc.

Darrah's innkeeping business was a success financially. During his hotel keeping career this place was in the ascendancy, and when he retired, in 1803, he was well rewarded with means for the continuous labors he spent in the hotel business at this place.

April 2, 1810, "Norriton Riflemen," an infantry military organization, met at the house of John Benjamin. Samuel Paterson, captain.\* Subsequently we find this military company meeting frequently at this place for drill and otherwise.

In August, 1810, another celebration of American Independence took place. There were present on this occasion the Light Infantry Blues, Republican Troop of Montgomery County, Norriton Rifles, Montgomery Light Infantry Blues and a large assemblage of citizens (this meeting was postponed to the above date at the request of farmers, as the harvest interfered with them participating on Independence day). After dinner the Declaration of Independence was read by John McFarland. Gen. Henry Scheetz was made president and Samuel Gross, Esq., vice-president of the meeting. On this occasion the Germantown band of music attended. Each toast was accompanied with an appropriate tune from the band. There were 17 regular and 7 volunteer toasts drank, which were greeted with cheers and volleys.

It is said that the assemblage on this occasion was between 600 and 700 persons. \* \* \*

In 1811 the hotel license was issued in the name of Isaac Markley, and thereafter it was annually granted in his name up to the time of his death in 1817. Isaac Markley moved with his family and took up his abode at this inn April 1st, 1811, at which time assuming the innkeepership.

July 4, 1812, another celebration of American Independence took place at the "Jefferson Inn" by the "Democratic Republicans of this county. Gen. Francis Swaine was made president and Gen. Henry Scheetz vice-president of the meeting.

"The company sat down to an excellent dinner at 3 o'clock, after which the Declaration of Independence was read, and 18 regular and 13 volunteer toasts were drank, accompanied by cheers, martial music and firing of cannon. \* \* \* During the whole day the greatest hilarity prevailed, several appropriate songs were sung; also an original song was sung amidst bursts of laughter and applause."

On September 11th, 1812, a meeting of Montgomery and Chester county conferrees was held here to nominate candidates for Congress. Jonathan Roberts, of Montgomery county, and Dr. Roger Davis, of Chester county, were selected. Thomas Bodly was chairman and Dr. John Hahn was secretary of this meeting.

As the war of 1812 with Great Britain was now declared, on June 13, 1812, the "Democratic Republican Troop of Montgomery County" convened at the house of Isaac Markley. They there and then did agree to offer their services to their country.

Around 1812 the Limerick Church was making strenuous efforts to raise funds to build a new edifice. Isaac Markley, as a member of said congregation, was very much interested in the church's welfare, and in order to raise funds a lottery was created for said purpose. Several of these drawings took place in the Jefferson Inn. Isaac Markley for several years was treasurer of said church.

About 1812 Isaac Markley erected on his lands on the eastern side of the Ridge road, below the hotel, a small two-story stone house and a stable. This dwelling was early used as a toll-house, and was known as gate No. 5 on the Ridge turnpike. This dwelling was first occupied by John Rhoads, as renter, who held the position of gate-keeper for a number of years; with the house Rhoades rented eight acres of land.



After Mr. Markley's death in 1818 Rhoads purchased this property—the buildings and eight acres of land—at public sale.

About 1812 Isaac Markley erected a forge on his land in the woods, on the south side of the Ridge road, a few rods below the hotel. Markley early employed a man to ply the trade of blacksmithing here. The location of this shop now would make it in the yard of Jackson W. Miller, but a short distance southeast of the dwelling house. The soil here is still black from this old forge if upturned.

In the year 1813 Isaac Markley was appointed treasurer of Montgomery county by Governor Simon Snyder, which position Markley filled for one year.

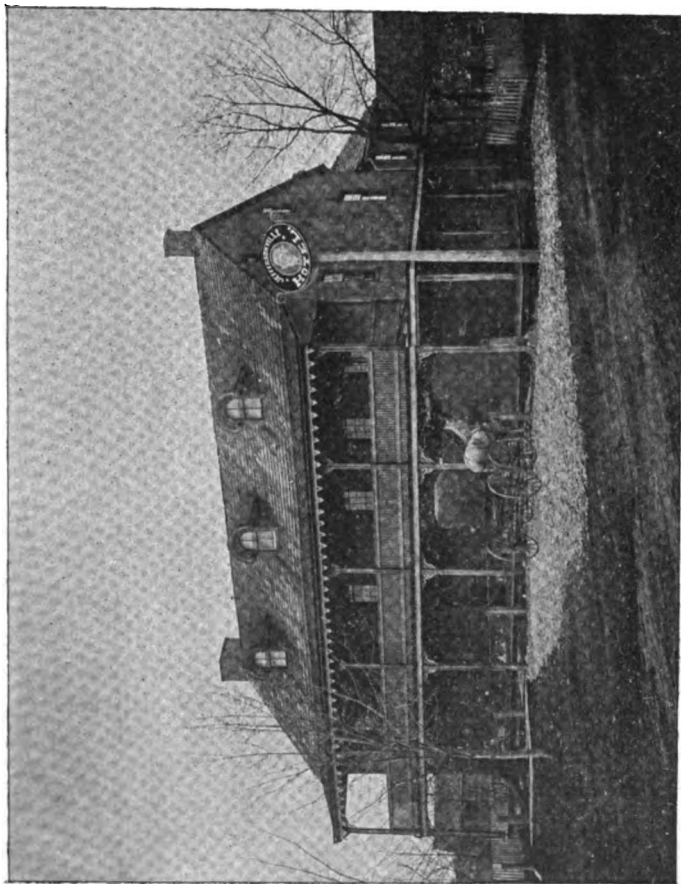
In May, 1813, Isaac Markley purchased to the hotel property of Jesse Bean 16½ acres of land, adjoining the southeastern corner of Markley's land. This field is now part of Jackson Miller's farm, and is known as his lower field; it is a long, narrow strip of land extending from the Egypt to the Port Indian road.

In 1813 Isaac Markley was also appointed one of the commissioners by the Governor for the construction of the Egypt turnpike road. This turnpike never materialized—lacking necessary support and funds.

On the fourth day of July, 1814, the Democratic Republicans again celebrated the anniversary of American Independence at the Jefferson Inn. \* \* \* "The day was ushered in by the firing of cannon and the air resounded with spontaneous rejoicings of an emancipated people. Gen. Francis Swaine was appointed president of the day, and Gen. Henry Scheetz and Dr. John Hahn vice-presidents. The Declaration of Independence was read by the president, after which an oration\* was delivered by Philip S. Markley, Esq., and the company at 2.30 p. m. sat down to an excellent dinner near a fine spring in the meadow opposite the house. After

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\*The oration delivered by Mr. Markley on this occasion was a masterpiece of oratory, and deserves much commendation as an able and patriotic speech. It was published in full in the *Norristown Register* on July 20th, 1814.



JEFFERSONVILLE INN.



the cloth was removed 18 regular and 16 volunteer toasts were drank, interspersed with firing of cannon, martial music and patriotic songs. An original song, written for the occasion, was sung by one of the company amidst bursts of applause."

In 1814 the Montgomery National Bank of Norristown was chartered and Isaac Markley was elected one of the first directors, to which position he was re-elected annually thereafter up to his death. Isaac Markley made the first deposit in said bank November 18, 1815; amount \$50.

On September 16, 1814, the Democratic Republican conferees of the counties of Chester and Montgomery met at the house of Isaac Markley and recommended Dr. John Hahn, of Montgomery county, to fill the vacancy occasioned by the removal of Jonathan Roberts, Esq., to the United States Senate.

On September 21, 1816, the Democratic Nomination Convention of Montgomery county met at the public house of Isaac Markley. Rev. Silas Hough, M. D., was made president and Gen. Henry Scheetz secretary of the meeting. This was one of the largest attended county conventions for years past.

Isaac Markley about 1815 erected on the northern section of his farm, near the Ridge road, suitable buildings; and purchased some five acres of land from a neighbor; attaching also 23 acres of land from his plantation (10 acres of which was woodland), making 27 acres in all, which property was sold by the administrators of the estate of Isaac Markley on December 30, 1819. This farm is now owned and occupied by Mr. Isaiah Boorse.

In the summer of 1816 quite a controversy took place in the columns of the Norristown *Register* over the poor-house management in Montgomery county. The aggressor in the case was a writer who signed his name as "Detector," and the defense was Isaac Markley. The controversy originated through preferred charges of dereliction of duty on the part of the Directors of the Poor, and "Detector" became rather personal and offensive in his charges and directed his efforts

mainly to ruining the good character of Isaac Markley. Considering the importance, popularity and high standing in the community of the defense at this time this mud-slinging must have created no little public interest and surprise. Without a doubt it was these efforts at refutation that led to Mr. Markley's defeat for re-election to the office of Director of the Poor at the general election in the following fall.

On the 10th day of April, 1817, Isaac Markley's eldest son, Abraham Markley, led to the marriage altar Mary Ann, daughter of Archibald Darrah.

"Agreeably to previous arrangements made by the Democratic Republican Troop of Montgomery county, that ever memorable day, 4th. of July, 1817, was celebrated at Isaac Markley's, Norriton township. The day was ushered in by firing a salute. At 11 o'clock the Republican Troop, commanded by Captain Matheys, Captain Holgate's Company of Light Infantry and a number of citizens assembled in the borough of Norristown, formed a procession and marched, accompanied by a band of music, to the place of celebration. On the way the procession was joined by a volunteer company commanded by Lieutenant Teany. After the arrival of the military at Isaac Markley's several evolutions were performed in a meadow contiguous to the house. About 300 persons sat down, at 2 o'clock, to an excellent dinner prepared by Mr. Markley. The cloth being removed an appropriate exordium was made by Thomas Ross, Esq., who was appointed president of the day, and Gen. Isaiah Wells, John McFarland and Joseph Crawford vice-presidents. The number that had come to participate in this celebration was unusual and unexpected, particularly considering the time of year, but it was a source of gratification and pleasure to witness the farmers and all classes of citizens relinquishing their avocations and uniting in the commemoration of that glorious epoch that secured to us the inestimable blessings that we enjoy. 18 regular and 7 volunteer toasts were drank, followed by booming of cannon and cheers."—*Register*, July 9, 1817.

Isaac Markley died at the inn October 17, 1817. At the

time of his death he possessed right and title to considerable real estate and personal property. Isaac Markley during his natural life was a man of considerable enterprise and force of character. Engaged as he was at the inn-keeping business, and at this time an important and essential one, its thrift made Mr. Markley public spirited and he became interested in many enterprises of a public and private nature. He was elected to many positions of public trust; all of which he filled with ability, honor and credit.

The following communication is taken from the Norristown *Register*—the character of which speaks for itself:

"Died on the 18th inst., after a short illness, Mr. Isaac Markley, of Norriton township, in the 45th year of his age. On the 19th the mortal remains were committed to the grave, attended by a greater concourse of people than was ever witnessed on a like occasion in this part of the country.

"He was a tender and careful husband, an affectionate and provident parent, an obliging neighbor, a useful citizen and an 'honest man.' Through his life he was honored with various public trusts, which he discharged with exemplary diligence and attention. In every capacity he was distinguished as a 'doer of good'. Long will his remembrance bedew the cheek of the widow and the orphan, and the recollection of the past awaken every string of painful sensibility. Afflicted mourners, let the thought that there is a husband to the widow, a father to the fatherless, of whom you can never be bereaved, and who will never forsake you, moderate your grief for this sad breach made in your little society. While many pass away leaving only a remembrance that they lived and died, society, in Mr. Markley, has sustained a loss which will be deeply felt, and not easily repaired. In his actions something beneficent was ever in view. The tenor of his life evinced that he 'put a greater value on the doer of good than any other kind of character.' But a kind Providence—

In every purpose wise  
In what he grants—and what denies,

has pleased to take him from a troubled world to a place where its cares are forgotten, its tumults are hushed and its miseries disappear."

Isaac Markley died intestate. Jesse Bean and Abraham Markley were administrators. To settle the estate the tavern stand, with 65 acres of land, was offered and sold at public sale, Monday, February 23d, 1818.

The following is an extract of the description of the property at that time taken from a sale bill of that date :

"The building is a large commodious two-story house, with four rooms on the first floor and six on the second, with a double piazza in front and a kitchen with a single piazza back. A barn, hay stable, and sheds sufficient for 100 head of horses, a milk-house over a good spring of water, near the dwelling, and a blacksmith shop. All of the said buildings are of stone and in good repair." \* \* \*

The license for the year 1818 was granted in the name of Mary Markley, widow of Isaac Markley.

Christian Keisellar and John Miller, of Germantown, became purchasers of the property at the above sale. The property was deeded to them April 1st, 1818—paying therefor \$15,438.82.

The license of the inn was assigned by Mary Markley to John Miller on April 1st, 1818. Miller was a son-in-law of Christian Keisellar, who now became tavern-keeper.

Miller, on March 13, 1820, advertised for a blacksmith. The applicant that filled the position was a man by the name of Peter Richards. Richards later on in his life was instrumental in adding a number of dwellings to the village of Jeffersonville. He was also the manufacturer of the famous Richards plough; which at one time enjoyed an enviable reputation.

Richards was a married man when he came to Norriton, and in order to provide for him a home for his family, Miller, his employer, converted a wagon-house adjoining the north-west gable end of the stone stable into a dwelling, in which Richards resided with his family for a number of years. Subsequently Richards purchased from Miller land a short distance above the inn, on which he erected for himself and family a stone dwelling. This property is now owned by Jacob Custer.

About 1824 Miller erected on his land, on the north side of Ridge turnpike, opposite the smith shop, a wheelwright shop, and employed a wheelwright by the name of Sloane to conduct the business. The present location of the site of this shop would make it in the yard of the property of Mr. Taber.

During the gubernatorial campaign of 1820 a strong opposition developed throughout the state against the re-election of William Findlay, the Democratic Republican nominee for Governor. In Montgomery county a share of dislike manifested itself and as an outcome of this the Democratic party split—a faction rallying to the support of Heister, the Federal nominee.

This Heister faction of the Democratic Republicans called a meeting, to be held at the house of John Miller, Norriton township, on April 29th, for the purpose of organizing for efficient work. John McFarland was made chairman and Francis Murphy secretary of the meeting. Another meeting was held by the above faction at the above named place, August 31st, 1820. Stephen Porter was made chairman and Jesse Weber secretary of the later meeting.

On September 14th, 1820, the Heister faction of the Democratic Republican party of Montgomery county met in convention at the house of John Miller to frame a ticket for the different elective county offices, at the same time recommending it to the support of the freemen of said county. At this meeting Thomas Ross was selected as president and Jacob Dewees and Benjamin Harris secretaries.

On December 1st, 1821, the first preparatory meeting of neighboring citizens was held at the public house of John Miller, of Norriton, for the purpose of forming the Jefferson Express Company—an organization for "the recovery of stolen horses and detecting of the thieves." At this meeting a committee of three citizens were appointed to draft rules and regulations. The meeting for organization occurred on January 1st, 1822, at the above named place; the organization was completed by the adoption of rules and



regulations and the selection of officers. Arnold Baker was made president, William Hamill treasurer, John Bean secretary. In the early history of this organization the company held meetings regularly every three months—now annually. Citizens were only eligible to membership residing within a certain defined territory. First this company met at different inns within the prescribed limits ; now they are annually held at Jeffersonville inn.

In 1821 I find another military organization meeting at the house of John Miller—the “ United Rifle Rangers ”—for drill, inspection, etc.

In 1823 John Miller was school trustee of (now) Jeffersonville school.

On Wednesday evening, February 19, 1823, a happy wedding took place. The groom was Edward Lane Bean (son of Jesse Bean) and the bride was Miss Anna Maria Miller, eldest daughter of the inn-keeper, John Miller. Rev. J. C. Clay, of Norristown, performed the ceremony.

The forty-seventh anniversary of American Independence was celebrated here under the auspices of the Norristown Guards, on July 4th, 1823. \* \* \* “ This auspicious day was welcomed at early dawn by firing of cannon, ringing of bells, martial music and music from a band. \* \* \* The guards marched from Norristown to Jesse Bean’s woods (a few hundred yards below the Jefferson Inn) where a large concourse of citizens greeted them. An excellent dinner for the occasion was served by John Miller. Captain Markley, Lieutenants Boyer and Porter were the presiding officers of the day. 13 regular and 27 volunteer toasts were drank, accompanied by firing of cannon and music from the band.”

Another wedding took place at the Jefferson Inn on March 4th, 1824, Rev. J. C. Clay officiating. The contracting parties were Mr. James Horning, of Upper Providence, to Miss Sarah Ann Miller, daughter of John Miller, of Norriton.

John Miller in 1825, in consequence of ill health, concluded to relinquish the hotel business, and he rented the place to a man by the name of Heebner. In consequence of

the death of Heebner's wife just a short time previous to the time he was to occupy the same Heebner changed his mind, for which reason Miller continued the business a year longer.

In 1825 John Miller completed the erection of a dwelling house at the junction of the Ridge and Egypt roads, opposite the hotel. In 1826, after vacating the inn, Miller with his family moved into the new dwelling. This house is now owned and occupied by Miller's son, Jackson, and his family.

Joseph Miller, the veteran hostler, in 1825 took up his position at this inn. He was a German, and John Miller brought him from the stone hills in the upper end of Montgomery county. Joseph Miller was a proficient and attentive man at the business, and held the position at this stand continuously for forty-seven years. By virtue of his promptness and sturdy attention to the business, "Old Joe" (as he was known in later years) became widely known by the traveling public. Many were the pennies he garnered at the business, and at the time of his death he was worth a snug little property as the result of this thrift.

In 1826 John Miller rented the inn to Dillman Stauffer,\* a neighboring farmer. On April 1st, 1826, the hotel license was transferred to Stauffer by Miller. Stauffer conducted the place for two years.

About 1827 the western room, first floor, of the hotel was rented by the inn-keeper to Samuel Markley, son of the late Isaac Markley, for a general merchandise store. This was the first store ever opened in the village, and was continued in the tavern for several years, until about 1829, when William Anslee, son-in-law of John Miller, bought from his father-in-law two and one-half acres of land, close by the hotel building, on the opposite side of the Ridge road, and immediately improved the property with a substantial two-story stone building. After completing the structure Mr. Anslee opened here a general merchandise store. In 1831 he sold out his stock of goods and moved to Roxborough to engage in the tavern

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\*Stauffer at this time was an extensive land owner in the community.

business. Mr. Anslee then rented this place. In this building in 1833 Rev. William Wolcott, pastor of the Lower Providence Presbyterian Church, opened a "classical boarding school"; and in 1834 the trustees of the Lower Providence Presbyterian Church purchased the said property for a parsonage. This property is owned and occupied now by Mr. Tabor.

About 1831 John Miller erected a two-story stone building for store purposes on a lot owned by him adjoining the Anslee property. He rented this building after completion to Samuel Markley; the latter in 1832 opened here a store. Mr. Markley continued a successful business here for a number of years. This dwelling has been owned and occupied as a store lately by Lewis Yetter.

April 1st, 1828, the hotel license was transferred to Edward Lane Bean, son-in-law of John Miller. Mr. Bean conducted the place as renter until April 9, 1835, when he purchased the inn of John Miller and Magdalene Keisellar (widow of Christian Keisellar), with 11 acres of land, paying therefor \$8,500.

"Montgomery Greys," a military company, met at this house in 1829 and afterwards, for drill and other purposes. Rodger Davis, captain.

Previous to 1829 the residents of this community received their mail at the Norristown post-office. This place (Jeffersonville) up to this time had grown to contain five dwelling houses.\* The Jeffersonville post-office was established January 29, 1829, in the hotel, and Edward L. Bean, inn-keeper, was appointed the first postmaster; he was continued as such until January 29, 1839, when Samuel Markley, store-keeper, was selected Bean's successor.

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\*The dwelling houses in Jeffersonville in 1829 were as follows:

Hotel, occupied by Edward L. Bean.

Tenant house, belonging to the hotel property, in which Peter Richards, the blacksmith, resided.

John Miller's residence, in which Jackson W. Miller now resides.

Archibald Darrah's residence, occupied at that time by Abram Markley, in which now resides George Garrett.

Toll house No. 5, owned and occupied by John Rhoades; of late years tenanted by Clayton Detwiler, store-keeper, and during whose occupancy it was destroyed by fire early in the winter of 1894.

We learned that previous to this date, and for a long time thereafter, this hotel was known as the "Jefferson Inn." The presumption is as the result of the growth and importance of this place, and the earnest desire to have a post-office here, at this time the "ville" was attached to "Jefferson," and "Jeffersonville" was the outcome. Besides about this time Keisellar and Miller, owners of the hotel property, were putting forward great efforts to establish a village. Much of their land contiguous to the hotel buildings they cut up into lots and did much to encourage their sale and building thereon. They not only sold many of these lots, but improved some themselves with suitable buildings. As an outcome of these efforts within the next few years many of the dwelling houses the village now contains were erected.

The "Second Troop of Montgomery County," the Republican organization, and the "First Troop of Montgomery County," the Democratic organization, met together at the "Jefferson Inn" May 3d, 1830. These troops convened here for the purpose of receiving arms from the state, to have a friendly drill, a social time in general amongst them, and for the transaction of routine business.

On May 24th, 1834, Christian Keisellar, father-in-law of John Miller and part owner of the hotel property, died, his widow, Magdalene, and daughter, Mary (wife of John Miller), their only child, surviving.

In October, 1834, John Miller advertised that noted and well established stand, sign of "Thomas Jefferson," in Jeffersonville, at private sale. \* \* \* "Tavern-house 60x34 feet with an entry and five rooms on first floor and an entry and five handsome rooms and a large dining-room on second floor, a double piazza in front and a piazza back of the house and kitchen—the kitchen is 18x24 feet and two-story high—cellar underneath house and kitchen. There is also a frame dwelling 15x24 feet (the building in which Peter Richards formerly resided), and an excellent stone double shed with granary and hay-loft above, likewise an open shed; also three handsome building lots facing on the turnpike." \* \* \*

"On Saturday, September 12, 1840, the Democratic Sons of Liberty, of Jeffersonville and vicinity, raised a splendid hickory liberty pole, upon which the flag of our country waved in graceful triumph, exposing to view the stars and stripes emblematic of the union of states. The land upon which the hickory grew, as also that upon which it is now planted, was in the days of the revolution the property of those whose devotedness to freedom brought down upon them the heavy hand of vengeance. Their all was consigned to the flames by British troops or British Tories. But the soil, good and fruitful, nourished the stately hickory above described; and now, in the days of triumph, it bears aloft the insignia of that liberty which British Tories and British slaves sought to destroy. Long may the stars and stripes grace the hickory liberty pole; the hickory being emblematic of strength, the stripes emblematic of the union, and the stars the brightness of glory which surrounds the American constellation, the light of liberty which enlightens the world.

"Addresses were delivered on this occasion by Col. William Powell, Adam Slemmer and Benjamin Powell, Esq." —*Norristown Register*, Sept. 16, 1840.

On January 13, 1841, Edward L. Bean, inn-keeper, was again appointed postmaster at Jeffersonville.

On Saturday, August 19, 1843, a "harvest home celebration" was held at the public house of Jesse Rittenhouse, Jeffersonville, by the "Washington Greys"; Jessie B. Davis, captain. The company (artillerists), after parading and spending some time in drill, partook of a sumptuous dinner provided by the inn-keeper; after which the "Greys" marched by sound of martial music to a table prepared in a neighboring grove, accompanied by many citizens who were kindly invited by Captain Davis to participate in the exercises of the day.

After surrounding the table Col. Augustus W. Shearer was elected president, Capt. J. B. Davis and B. E. Chain vice-presidents, and J. W. Knight and Adam Ashenfelter secretaries.

Colonel Shearer delivered the oration; after which 17

toasts were read by Captain Davis, which were received with appropriate salutes from the "Grey's" brass field-piece and cheering by the crowd.

In 1843 Edward L. Bean retired from the hotel business and rented the inn to Jesse Rittenhouse, who conducted the place for two years as inn-keeper.

An adjourned meeting of the Democratic Polk Association was held at the public house of Jesse Rittenhouse (Jeffersonville) Thursday evening, August 22, 1844. This meeting convened for the purpose of adopting a set of resolutions and plans for efficient party work at the oncoming general election. Daniel Smith was made president, and James Burnside and Bennet Fullner secretaries of the meeting. As an outcome of the above efforts on the following Saturday a great mass meeting was held in the woods of Col. William Powell, where it was estimated from 15,000 to 25,000 people were present.

In 1845 the hotel license was granted in the name of Henry Ortlip. Mr. Ortlip remained here as renter for three years.

In 1847 John M. Bean and Christian Miller, administrators in the estate of Edward L. Bean, deceased, sold the hotel with 11 acres of land to John Beard. John Beard conducted the inn for two years, in whose name the license was granted in the years 1848 and 1849.

On October 19th and 20th, 1848, the "Jeffersonville Agricultural Association of Montgomery County" held its first display or exhibition. This important affair took place at the Jeffersonville inn. The rooms of the second floor west end of the building were used for the domestic or ladies' department in which to display their goods. For machinery, cattle, products of the soil, etc., the shedding and temporary buildings were erected for that purpose. This initiatory exhibition of agricultural products led to the formation and elaboration of the Springtown, and later on the Ambler Mechanical and Agricultural Society.

In 1850 George Brenig became hotel-keeper as renter, and he conducted the inn for two years.

In 1852 the hotel license was granted in the name of Reinhard March, who conducted the inn as renter for two years.

Reinhard March was a man of considerable inventive ingenuity. At this time, it is said, he devoted much of his time to the elaboration and perfection of a "perpetual motion."

In 1852 Norriton township was made into a separate election district. Under an act of Assembly, approved March 3, 1852, the first general election was held at the public house of Reinhard March, Jeffersonville, in the following October. The general elections were held here and Penn Square alternately until 1891, at which time the township was divided by the court into two election districts; now all elections of the western district are held at the Jeffersonville Inn.

In 1854 to 1857 the hotel was occupied by Theodore Skeen as renter, when on April 8th, 1857, the license was transferred to Adam Hurst, who at this date purchased the hotel with 8 acres of land of John Beard.

John Beard, while owner of the hotel property, erected on the lands thereof five dwelling houses—a row of three stone dwellings facing the turnpike, opposite the hotel, now owned by Mathew Tyson and others; a row of two frame dwellings, also facing the turnpike, now owned by Mr. Samuel Scheetz.

On Thursday night, December 2d, 1858, the frame sheds attached to the hotel property, to the rear of the stone stable, were destroyed by fire with contents, such as cow, mowing machine, hay, etc.

On Wednesday evening, October 20th, 1859, the stone stable opposite the hotel building was destroyed by fire. These fires were supposed to be the work of an incendiary.

About this time a number of barns with their contents, in this neighborhood, were destroyed by fire. A failure in accomplishing their purpose with a neighboring barn, and the discovery of the apparatus constructed by the fire-bug with

which to fire the building, created suspicion, which rather suddenly put a stop to these dastardly acts.

Shortly after the destruction of the stone stable by fire Adam Hurst erected a new stone stable, that forms part of the present hotel property, and which stands to the rear of the hotel building.

On April 4th, 1860, Adam Hurst transferred his license to D. B. Hartranft, as renter. Hartranft remained here for three years.

In 1861 the civil war broke forth. Military organizations were springing up rapidly all over the country. Some of these troops were organized for the purpose of going to the front and some for home defense. A local military troop was formed at Jeffersonville called the "Home Guards," composed mainly of neighboring citizens, and the Jeffersonville Inn was their chosen convening place for drill, the transaction of routine business, etc. Inn-keeper D. B. Hartranft was early selected drill master or captain of these troops. Each man furnished his own horse and a uniform of gray material. These troops were armed with wooden swords, and usually drilled in a large field below the village, bordering the Ridge turnpike. This troop continued in existence until the year 1862, when many of its members enlisted in the regular service and went to the front with other troops. This depletion of the ranks led to the dissolution of the organization. Captain D. B. Hartranft enlisted in the Seventeenth United States Cavalry.

In 1862 the hotel property was deeded to Charles Hurst by Adam Hurst. In 1863 and 1864 David Seasholtz occupied the place as renter, and on April 1st, 1865, transferred his license to Yates Evans. Evans remained as renter until April 6th, 1866, and in turn transferred the license to Adam Hurst. Hurst conducted the inn until his death. In 1872 the widow, Letitia Hurst, rented the hotel to John Jarrett. Jarrett remained here until April, 1874, when he was succeeded as renter by Charles Weaver. Weaver continued as innkeeper until April, 1874, when he was succeeded as renter by A. H. Brower.



The hotel was sold at Sheriff's sale in 1876 to W. E. Oberholtzer. In April, 1877, the license was transferred to Oberholtzer, who conducted the inn until 1879, when he sold it to Bridget Noonan. Mrs. Noonan's husband, John Noonan, conducted the inn until March, 1880, when he was succeeded by John McCool as renter. In November, 1880, Peter Fiegel became purchaser, and conducted the inn until 1885, when he was succeeded by William J. Ferrell. On January 20th, 1890, William Stroud became purchaser, and still occupies and owns the inn. Mr. Stroud has lately improved the hotel building. The land, with the buildings, now amounts to but a trifle over one acre.

The hotel building\* as erected by Col. Archibald Thompson, in 1765, was at that time very large for such purposes, so far inland and distant from Philadelphia. As Col. Archibald Thompson was born and reared in this neighborhood he undoubtedly displayed good judgment by erecting such a large and substantial structure in these early days. Subsequent time proved that the building was not beyond needful dimensions.

As Norristown in these early days had not materialized, the public house of Archibald Thompson soon acquired a wide reputation for hospitality and excellent entertainment. As many of the settlers in this neighborhood were intelligent and progressive, of Scotch-Irish descent, this community early became a noted place, and many of the public gatherings of a political, public, local and general character were held at the public house of Archibald Thompson. This house being large for those days, the place offered ample room and accommodation for such purposes.

Hotel keeping in these early days was of a different nature from that of to-day. We find in those days some of our most eminent and popular men engaged in the business. The calling at that time was one of actual necessity, and the hospitable and

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\*The excellent photo-engraving of the old Jeffersonville inn which adorns this volume is from a photograph by our townsman W. H. Richardson. It was taken about ten years ago.

progressive landlord was the person the travelling public and community looked upon as the leading spirit. As there were no canals or railroads in those days over which to transport goods or merchandise, naturally the inland settlements depended on the pack-horse and vehicle as the mode of conveyance. When distance was to be covered by the travelling public appeal was made to the public house to provide provender and rest for man and beast engaged in such work.

The public house of Col. Archibald Thompson, located but nineteen miles from Philadelphia, soon became a great stopping place. This Inn's location by teamsters was early recognized as a day's journey to or from Philadelphia. It soon became an accepted fact with teamsters, regardless of the time of leaving Philadelphia or their arrival in Norrington, this public house was the accepted stopping place for the night.

These teams, in the early history of the Inn, would draw up in the woods surrounding the hotel. Later on, when the land was cleared of its timber and fenced, the road would be utilized along which to draw their teams in a line, and there unharness their horses and tie them to the wagons for the night and to feed. In the winter the horses would be covered with short blankets. Irrespective of the weather the stabling would seldom be used by these teamsters for the housing of their animals, for the reason, as it was said, to care for their horses well in the east the animals would not withstand the severe wintry blasts and exposure while crossing the mountains where no shelter abounded.

These teams, while travelling, usually did so in long trains, sometimes miles in length. The lead teams were usually encircled with strings of bells. It was said the noise frightened away wild animals while crossing the mountains, such as wolves, bears, etc.

When these teams drew up before a hotel for the night, each teamster usually cared for his own horses. The provender was usually purchased from the innkeeper. The animals were fed from feed boxes strapped to the wagon. There the

horse would remain for the night with naught else to lie upon than the hard ground or soft snow.

The teamster usually partook his meals of the innkeeper, who supplied such for a mere pittance. When night came on for rest, the teamster with his bunk (which he usually carried with him strapped into a roll), during the cold weather would go into the bar-room, spread it upon the floor, cover himself with a short blanket and there sleep for the night. In early morning these teamsters would be astir to care for their horses. After partaking of breakfast and a morning toddy, their team would be gotten in readiness and off they would be on their journey. The price of toddy in those early days was about three cents; for extra drinks the price would be accordingly.

This inn was early provided with a hostler. Farming was carried on to a considerable extent at this place in conjunction with innkeeping. The hostler's duties in those days were mainly directed to the performance of chores, such as general work around the hotel, barn and stable; at times to work on the farm, attending to the wants and necessities of the travelling public whenever his services were required.

In the early history of this hotel, by what I can learn from public documents and other records, it usually went by the name of the person who conducted the inn. Very early it was called the public house of Archibald Thompson; his successor, the public house of Hannah Thompson; her successor, public house of Robert Thompson; the public house of Archibald Darrah, etc. It was during Darrah's administration we previously learned that this place took the name of "Jefferson Inn." Although after this, irrespective of the new name given the inn, the hotel continued to be published in the name of the innkeeper, as the public house of Frederick Hallman, Jacob Wykle, Samuel Patterson, John Benjamin, Isaac Markley, John Miller, etc.

The earliest line of stages that travelled the Ridge road of which I can find any record was about 1800, and Jefferson Inn was one of their stopping places. The object of stopping here was to give the horses a rest, and offer the passengers an

opportunity to limber their stiffened joints, and refresh themselves with drink or otherwise. Later on, when the village post-office was established at Jeffersonville, the mail was delivered by these coaches; they continued to do so until the stage lines were abandoned, which occurred a short time after the construction of the Perkiomen railroad.

As we previously learned this inn was extensively patronized by the travelling public from its beginning. The revenues from the innkeeping business increased with time until the building of the Schuylkill canal and railroads. These improved conveyances offered cheaper rates and more rapid transit of goods, which led to a revolution in the carrier business, and travel on the public roads then began to diminish rapidly. As an outcome of this many of the rural inns were closed for lack of public patronage, but "Jefferson Inn" was one of the hotels to continue its existence; and still its portals are open for the accommodation of the travelling public, in which capacity it has now seen a continuous existence for a period of one hundred and thirty years.

The palmiest business days at this inn covered a period, say, from 1810 until the construction of the Schuylkill canal about 1827. Travelling on the Ridge road during this time was something tremendous.

Tradition says fortunes were made and lost at this stand by the innkeepers. Undoubtedly the early landlords were well rewarded for their labors. By the inventories some of these innkeepers left behind at their death tradition is correct.

A number of years ago, when the law was enacted prohibiting the sale of intoxicating liquors on the Sabbath, the "Jeffersonville Inn" suffered as a consequence, and for a time thereafter legitimate hotel keeping here diminished and became less profitable.

## OLD "HARRITON," NEAR BRYN MAWR.

By Samuel Gordon Smyth.

On the northern edge of Bryn Mawr there stands a broad tract of fine timber many acres in extent. Through this growth, from a point on the old Gulf road, near Taylor College, a path leads diagonally across to a road on the opposite side, which bears off in the direction of the highlands of the Schuylkill. One day last autumn, having occasion to take a short cut in my journey to Conshohocken, I rode along this path and chanced upon a curious burial place in the very midst of the forest. It seemed very ancient, and so mysterious looking that I determined to linger long enough to make a brief examination.

As I approached the enclosure I noticed a large date-stone built in the wall; it bore the following inscription:

HARRITON FAMILY CEMETERY, ANNO 1719.

On the reverse of the stone facing inside the enclosure another inscription conveyed this information, to wit:

THIS STONE IS OPPOSITE THE DIVISION BETWEEN TWO ROWS OF FAMILY GRAVES  
WHEREIN WERE INTERRED

RICHARD HARRISON

(Died March 2, 1747)

AND A NUMBER OF HIS DESCENDANTS.

ALSO

CHARLES THOMSON,

SECRETARY OF CONTINENTAL CONGRESS,

Died Aug. 16, 1824,

AND

HANNAH THOMSON,

WIFE OF CHAS. THOMSON, DAUGHTER OF RICHARD HARRISON, GRAND-DAUGHTER  
OF ISAAC NORRIS AND GREAT-GRAND-DAUGHTER OF

GOVERNOR THOMAS LLOYD,

Died Sept. 6, 1807.

This little cemetery, secluded and remote though it is, and immersed in the gloomy half-light of the forest, has a tidy, well-kept appearance. Several moss-grown mounds are to be seen, but by reason of old-established custom still prevalent among the Quakers in the earlier interments here, common, flat, unhewn stones had been used to mark the graves. I saw nothing in either of the two rows described as family graves to indicate which one might contain the bones of Richard Harrison, or his distinguished son-in-law, Charles Thomson.

The graves of recent years, however, have marble head and foot pieces more modern in pattern. Two of them designate the graves of Levi Morris and his wife, Naomi; others mark where their children lie. One other testifies to the resting place of Charles McClenachan (who was Charles Thomson's heir), who, dying in 1811, left as his heiress a child then but six weeks of age. This child became Mrs. Levi Morris, and it may be said of her that she had been the mistress of "Harriton" almost the whole of her natural life of nearly eighty-two years.

Some time in the year 1717 Richard Harrison, Jr., came into the Province of Pennsylvania from the western shore of Maryland, where his people had settled two generations before, in what was then Calvert county. The elder Harrison was said to have been a friend of the great Quaker, George Fox. The son was of the same religious belief and strong in its convictions.

During Harrison's stay in Pennsylvania he met and wooed Mary Norris, whose father, Isaac Norris, was one of Penn's Councillors. She was a grand-daughter of the Colonial Governor, Thomas Lloyd. This lady became Richard Harrison's second wife. It had been previously arranged that Mrs. Harrison was to go into Maryland, where her husband—as a large tobacco grower and slave-holder—had an extensive plantation, and there reside for a year or two, and then, if she found it undesirable, Harrison was to dispose of his interests there and move into Pennsylvania. Be that as it may, we find the fact chronicled that he did return to his wife's native land,

where he purchased a large plantation of about seven hundred acres, mostly in woodland, from Rowland Ellis, who came to America about 1650, from Bryn Mawr, in Merionethshire, Wales, antedating Penn's arrival several years.

This tract was located in Merioneth township, not far from Philadelphia. Here Richard Harrison settled, but not before he had experienced the loss of his household goods that had been shipped by vessel from Maryland. This event happened on the voyage up the Delaware river, at some point a few miles below Philadelphia. An attack was made by pirates, who seized all the furniture and valuables, but considerately landed the slaves at some point on the river.

The house where Harrison took up his abode is still standing on the old farm. It had been built by Ellis in 1704. It is said that all of the material used in its construction was drawn to the site in the panniers of pack-horses. Harrison finished the clearing of his estate, to which he gave the name of "Harriton," and began the cultivation of tobacco. This became his principal pursuit until finally, by continuous cropping the soil became so impoverished as to make tobacco planting an unprofitable business.

It was not long after the family had gotten comfortably settled in their new home before a new experience presented itself. The negro slaves that had been brought from Maryland had shown signs of discontent and wanted to return to the South. The family traditions say that the scheme was to destroy their master and mistress by poison, and only the timely discovery of the design, by what might be termed a miraculous interposition of Providence, was the means of saving the family.

The circumstances were about as follows: One morning while the family were seated at breakfast, and during the brief interval of silence which usually precedes a meal in the Society of Friends, a knocking was heard at the front door, which opens directly into the room used as the principal living apartment. Mr. Harrison called out to his would-be visitor to enter, but there was no response, and the knocking continued. Mr.

Harrison then rose hastily from the table, and in so doing precipitated its contents upon the floor.

No one was found at the door, but in the meantime the family cat had been regaling itself with the spilled chocolate, when it was suddenly seized with convulsions and died in a short time. These incidents seemed to have a mysterious effect upon the negroes. Their superstitious natures foresaw in these strange happenings some awful retribution, and they presently confessed to their master how they had planned to murder and plunder the family and then flee back to Maryland.

Richard Harrison was noted for his religious devotion, and in 1730 he caused to be erected on his property adjoining the little cemetery, a small meeting house, which "was of stone, one story high, and about fifteen by thirty feet." Here the family, with friends and neighbors, worshipped for many years. The meeting-house was destroyed in 1819. Richard Harrison died in 1747, leaving to survive him a widow and four children.

In his will the following clause was found regarding the meeting-house and cemetery:

"And, whereas, I have erected a certain meeting-house or place of worship on part of my said tract of land in Merion township aforesaid: Now, therefore, it is my will, and I do hereby declare that the said meeting-house, together with a square piece of ground containing, by estimation, two acres at least, adjoining to said house, where several of my children lie interred, shall not be sold by my said trustees, but that the same house and ground shall forever hereafter be exempted and reserved out of my said tract of land in Merion aforesaid, and shall remain and continue to be for use and service of a meeting-house and place of interment."

By the death of Mrs. Harrison—the widow—and partition proceedings among the then living heirs, the title to the plantation was settled upon Hannah Harrison, who afterward married Charles Thomson, a prominent scholar and teacher. This event took place in 1774.



Charles Thomson was one of that remarkable group of men which the conditions of those times produced. He had been born in the North of Ireland, in 1729, and was but ten years of age when his brothers and he landed at New Castle, Delaware. He found friends at once among the people there. Quick to recognize the lad's native qualities, a chance was procured for him of entering Dr. Allison's Seminary, at New London, Pennsylvania. Here his abilities were rapidly developed; becoming particularly proficient as a classical scholar, and afterward returning to New Castle to become a teacher in the Friends' School there.

It was while thus employed that he came under the notice of leading men, not the least of whom was Dr. Franklin, who eventually sought Thomson's services as an assistant in the first academy established in Philadelphia.

Taking an early interest in the public affairs of his day, Thomson also became earnestly interested in the welfare of the Indians. His influence among them was extensive, and they recognized in him a faithful, zealous friend, whose word they implicitly trusted. In view of these facts, one is not surprised to find it recorded that, in the year 1756, he was adopted into the Delaware Tribe at Easton. They gave him the name "Wegh-wa-law-mo-end"—signifying "a man of truth." Frequently Thomson referred to this circumstance, and his general connection with them by saying that he was half Indian himself.

This intercourse with the Indians, his familiarity with their mode of life, afforded him an opportunity of study, which resulted in the publication in London, in 1759, of "An Inquiry into the Causes of the Alienation of the Delaware and Shawanese Indians, with Notes on Indian Customs, by the Editor."

The disturbance throughout the Colonies regarding British persecutions, the enforcement of obnoxious laws, and in other ways goading the people, produced the incident of the closing of the port of Boston by the English King. During the sequent agitation which followed, Thomson must have taken a conspicuous part, for he became the secretary of a gathering

of Colonial delegates whose deliberations ultimately resulted in the combination of the delegates into a general congress, which passed into history as the First Continental Congress. They met in Carpenters' Hall, Philadelphia, September, 1774. Peyton Randolph was chosen president, and Charles Thomson, secretary. Although unaware at the time of the honor bestowed upon him he subsequently met the messenger, while driving into the town from "Harriton," with his wife, Hannah Harrison, whom he had lately married.

Mr. Thomson took the office conferred upon him, temporarily for a year. At the end of that time he declined the salary due for his services, so Congress thereupon voted to Mrs. Thomson a handsome silver urn in recompense, they said, of having deprived her of her husband's society.

Thomson was persuaded to continue in the office to which he had been appointed for fifteen years, serving continuously until the first meeting of Congress under the new or present Constitution. In his official capacity, as secretary, it became his duty in 1776 to read the Declaration of Independence to the assembled Congress, after the instrument had been drafted by Jefferson and had been approved by the committee.

When at last the new Constitution had been ratified by the majority of States and the House of Representatives had convened at New York for the purpose of counting the electoral vote in accordance with its provisions, it was found that George Washington had been unanimously elected President of the United States. Charles Thomson was delegated by Congress to carry the notice of election to General Washington, then at Mount Vernon.

Leaving New York, April 7, 1789, Thomson reached Mount Vernon a week later, a journey now of but a few hours. Presenting the certificate to the President-elect, Washington replied in part as follows:

"Upon considering how long time some of the gentlemen of both houses of Congress have been at New York, how anxiously desirous they must be to proceed to business, and how deeply the public mind appears to be impressed with the

necessity of doing it speedily, I cannot find myself at liberty to delay my journey. I shall therefore be in readiness to set out the day after to-morrow, and shall be happy in the pleasure of your company, for you will permit me to say that it is a peculiar gratification to have received this communication from you."

Washington began on April 16, 1789, that memorable inaugural journey, in the company of Charles Thomson and Colonel Humphries, arriving in New York on April 23, amid a din of rejoicing, which had continued with unabated enthusiasm from Mount Vernon to Federal Hall, where he took the oath of office as the first President of these United States of America.

After these excitements Charles Thomson retired to the privacy of "Harriton," giving himself up to those literary pursuits of which he was so fond. Being eminently fitted for the task, and because, also, of the peculiar advantages which his former position had given him, he prepared a history of the Revolution, but fearing, however, that the publication of this work might give pain to the descendants of some of the principal characters therein described, he destroyed the manuscript, and thus posterity has probably lost something that would have been useful and authentic.

About 1798 Charles Thomson and his wife, having no children, joined in a deed conveying the plantation of "Harriton" unto Charles McClenachan, a nephew of Thomson's, reserving unto themselves simply a life interest in the estate, and still continuing to reside thereon. Mrs. Thomson died in 1807, and was buried in the family cemetery.

In the following year Thomson brought out a translation of the Scriptures, a work upon which he had been engaged for several years. The Old Testament he translated from the Septuagint, the production being the first English translation of the Holy Bible accomplished in this country.

Between the years 1795 and 1810, the little cemetery in the woods began to cause contentions. Outsiders wanted to bury their dead there, which was finally permitted; hence, one

may see over on the left of the lot a series of strangers' graves, bearing the names of Cochrane, Elliott, Roberts and others, having no family connection with the Harrisons. On the right hand side of the grounds, as the old household domestics dropped off, there they were laid away, until in time, two well filled rows of graves, each with its rough headstone, took up one end of the cemetery. The center of the ground was reserved for the family burials.

At the beginning of the present century, the Baptists having come into the neighborhood, Charles McClenachan gave to them a plot of ground at the corner of the Gulf and Roberts Roads for church and burial purposes. In the church that was subsequently built there Thomson worshipped in the latter years of his life; and the first pastor of it was Rev. Horatio Gates Jones, famous in his day. This church now, by the way, has been reft of its primitive style of symplicity, and the visitor sees in its stead a battlemented nondescript. Mr. George W. Childs contributed to this church a handsome memorial window, dedicated to Charles Thomson.

Thomson continued to wield the quill, and in 1815 appeared "A Synopsis of the Four Evangelists, etc.," published in Philadelphia. Other writings followed. He still resided at Harriton, and died there in August, 1824, in the ninety-fifth year of his age. Among his literary remains was a valuable paper entitled, "Critical Annotations on Gilbert Wakefield's Works," which was presented some time later to the Massachusetts Historical Society. The old secretary wished to be buried beside his wife, and there he was laid.

Through life Thomson had always been popular. He had a dignified manner, and was an affable and courteous speaker. While in Congress he was said to have been "the very life of that body." When age grew upon him he did not require any artificial aid to the faculties; never used spectacles; his teeth remained sound. He was regular in habits and vigorous in body, but his mind unfortunately fell into decay, his brilliant intellect became clouded, and he soon became a mental wreck.

The ashes of Thomson were not destined to rest undisturbed beneath the old "Harriton" oaks. Trouble arose from certain citizens of Lower Merion wanting to get possession of the cemetery for public use. The Legislature was petitioned to that end, but the plan was frustrated by the heirs appearing before the Legislative committee and proving title.

Again, in 1833, another attempt was made by interested parties to wrest possession of the cemetery from the owners, and the crisis was reached when some persons notified the owners that they would present themselves at the cemetery at a stated time to take possession of the burial place. This produced a notice from the owners that anyone found trespassing on the "Harriton" estate would be summarily dealt with, and so ended that scheme; but it was reserved for the year 1838 to witness the consummation of a bold and outrageous plan. The promoters of the Laurel Hill Cemetery, wishing to have the benefit to be derived from the possession of a few distinguished bodies buried within their grounds, made overtures to the "Harriton" heirs for permission to remove the bodies of Charles Thomson and his wife to their beautiful necropolis on the banks of the Schuylkill. After considerable correspondence between the parties concerned the application was refused.

John Thomson, a nephew of the deceased secretary, then claimed authority to remove his uncle's remains. This claim was denied. The matter dropped for a time until one morning at break of day a number of resurrectionists were surprised in their work of despoiling the lonely cemetery of its dead. While the alarm was being given, the ghouls had hurriedly thrust their burthens into a wagon standing near, then rapidly drove away, leaving the gaping pits yawning and three bodies gone.

In the sensation which followed it was not denied that this work was done in the interest of the Laurel Hill faction, but it yet remains a matter of doubt that whether among the bodies thus secured was that one of Charles Thomson.

At the time of the despoliation the burying ground was said to have been in a sadly neglected condition, grown up with briars and matted vines, and very difficult of access. No one was supposed to have known the exact spot of burial of the trio who figure so prominently in this sketch.

Nothing of importance was done after this mysterious affair had subsided, and with this act a period of peace had settled down upon the scene, which is as yet unbroken these fifty years past, and Laurel Hill may possibly claim to possess the ashes of the distinguished patriot and writer, Hon. Charles Thomson.

Charles Thomson was yet living and well on to his eighty-second year when Charles McClenachan died suddenly in 1811. It was then discovered that by reason of some defect in the conveyance of "Harriton" from Thomson, the question of title was disputed among the heirs, and caused years of litigation, until finally settled in favor of the little child then but six weeks old, Mrs. Naomi Morris, of recent memory.

In the year 1844 the little cemetery was cleaned and restored through a small legacy left for the purpose by a member of the family, and it has been kept clean and attractive ever since.

The Harriton estate of to-day is a beautiful commingling of nature's most potent attributes. There are six hundred or more acres of pleasant hills and meadows, rich in fertility, and yielding annual tribute to the prosperity of its owners.

Across the meadows from the Roberts road, on the rising bank above the creek, stands the old stone house in all its primitive simplicity. Beneath its sturdy oaken beams and in the glow of its ancient fire-place a brawny farmer's family sit, making the old hall ring with the mirth of Christmas-tide. Little ornamentation relieves the exterior of its bare surroundings. These charms that may have been in the way of flowers and shrubbery have no doubt passed with the retirement of the family to their more luxurious home near by. The present family mansion is very charmingly situated beside the Gult road in a sunny nook on the hillside, a grove of towering pop-

lars and a placid lake add a comforting presence to the otherwise beautiful home.

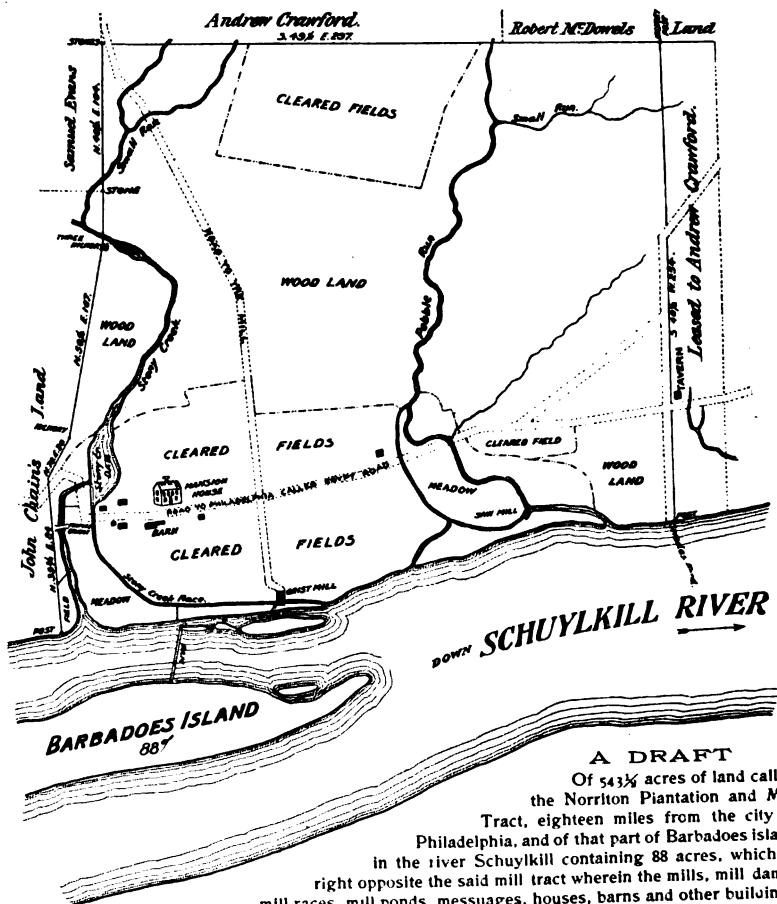
Over in the dark woods where but little of the noise of the outside world penetrates to the silent tombs, an occasional visitor comes to idle away his fleeting hours in curious meditation there; or at long intervals a funeral cortege; to pause awhile, as the myrtle-clad sod is turned, and "dust unto dust" returns as soulless clay is

Restored to old mother-earth  
Awhile, to slumber  
Dormant in the silent dust.—*Woodward.*

It has been my pleasure to meet the late Mrs. Morris in her declining years, and to have from her some portion of the family history. I therefore make my acknowledgment to her memory, and to others of the family, for certain details herein recorded.







The whole premises, fast land and island, will be sold together by public vendue on Wednesday, the 27th of February, 1771, at Archibald Thompson's tavern in Norriton township.

## AN OLD MAP OF NORRISTOWN.

At the celebration of the Montgomery County Centennial, in 1884, Jacob B. Metz exhibited an old map on paper yellow with age, the ink much faded. It was about eight times the size of the reproduction of it on the opposite page. It was a map made in 1771, of part of the land on which Norristown now stands. The land shown by it extends from the Schuylkill river to near where now is Fornance street, and from about where Astor street is to just below Ford street. It comprises much of what now is the business center of the present town of Norristown, and also shows part of Barbadoes island.

This old map being an interesting relic of the past, opening to us a long retrospective vista, the publication committee of the Historical Society decided to include a copy of it in this book.

In 1704 William Penn patented 7480 acres of land on the East bank of the river Schuylkill, including this tract shown on the map, to his son, William Penn, Jr., who immediately sold it to William Trent and Isaac Norris. Trent soon sold his interest to Norris, who then held it all till he died, in 1735. In the division of his estate in 1741 his son, Charles Norris, took this with other tracts of land. Charles Norris died intestate in 1770, and his widow, Mary Norris, administered to and settled his estate.

Under order of Orphans' Court, Mary Norris, the administratrix, offered this property at public sale, at the tavern of Archibald Thompson, now known as the Jeffersonville tavern, on February 27, 1771, as stated on the map. The purchaser at that sale was Lewis Weiss, scrivener, to whom she deeded the property the following March, for the consideration of £4,270 lawful money of Pennsylvania (\$11,386.67). He con-

veyed it back to her on the next day for the same consideration. Weiss was evidently her conveyancer, and no doubt drew this map. John Bull, who lived near by, was probably present at the public sale. At all events he bought the property afterwards from Mary Norris, in September, 1771, for £4,600 lawful money of Pennsylvania (\$12,266.67).

Colonel Bull sold nearly all the tract in November, 1776, to Rev. William Smith, who soon after conveyed it to the University of Pennsylvania. The title remained in this last owner until 1791, except that it donated the sites for the county buildings, and sold a few town lots. In the meantime, in 1784, Montgomery county was created, and a town was plotted out, showing the Court House lot and public square, and indicating Egypt, DeKalb, Airy and Swede streets, with sixty-four town lots, each fifty feet wide, fronting on them. This was the start of the town of Norris. It was not until 1812 that it procured its borough charter.

In the deed to Weiss, in 1771, the property is described as "All that capital messuage, mills, plantation, and tract of fast land situate in Norrinton, formerly called the manor of Williamstad, beginning at a post on the side of the Schuylkill river, a corner of John Chain's land, thence by the same north  $35^{\circ} 43'$ , east 84 perches to a black-oak sapling," etc., containing 543 acres and a half of land; "and also all that large island commonly called or known by the name of Barbadoes island, situate in the river Schuylkill opposite to the said manor of Williamstad, being in length 400 perches, and in breadth on the broadest part thereof about 60 perches, and is encompassed on every part by the waters of said river, containing in the whole 88 acres."

The mansion house was near where the Hartranft Hotel now stands. This, with perhaps one or two log tenant houses, the barn and other farm buildings, the grist mill and the saw-mill, all on the cleared land near the river, together with a small tavern near Ford street, were the only buildings on the property in 1771. The sale was held at the tavern of Archibald Thompson, two miles away. It is interesting to note

that one hundred and twenty-three years ago the tavern at what is now Jeffersonville was more of a business place than the whole of what is now Norristown.

The grist mill was located along the river at about the end of Swede street. It obtained its water power through a long race from a dam on Stony creek, and also from a dam in the Schuylkill extending from the island to about Barba-does street. The saw-mill appears to have stood east of where now is the Mill Street Station. It has given its name to Saw-mill run, which, as shown on the map, was previously called Pebble run.

The map shows that over three-fourths of the land was still covered by woods. The land had been cleared from Stony creek to Arch street, and from the river to near Marshall street. There were also cleared fields at about Elm and DeKalb streets. All the rest was woodland. Where is now the heart of the town with its churches, schools, markets, mills, stores, county buildings, and thousands of homes, was then the primeval forest.

The roads through the woods indicate but few of the present streets of the town. The road to Swedes Ford occupies the site of the present Ford street. The road now called Sandy street intersected Egypt street at about where Arch street does to-day. Swede street is indicated as the road to the mill.

Egypt road occupies nearly the same location as the present Egypt or Main street of Norristown. Near Markley street it appears to have run towards Airy street, where it crossed Stony creek, and then returned to about its present location at Chain street. This detour was evidently made because of the steep slopes on both sides of the narrow valley of Stony creek. The grades there are still steep, though now much reduced by cuts and fills. A proposed bridge site is indicated where the present bridge stands.

Egypt road, which afterwards became a part of the great thoroughfare from Philadelphia to Reading, was then an uncertain highway, emerging from the woodland, running for

a short space through this clearing, and then disappearing again in the forest. It is interesting to consider the growth of Egypt street, as this map in some measure suggests. First the Indian trail, then the path through the forest, marked by blazed trees; next the narrow, uncertain cart-way; then the country road; afterwards the village street; now the noisy, paved highway of the busy town lined with buildings, filled with pedestrians, teams and rushing electric cars. The growth of the past astounds us. Can it be possible that in the future such progress will continue.

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NOTE.—The Historical Society of Montgomery County publishes the foregoing papers as they were furnished to it by their several authors. It believes that in each instance the author has prepared his paper carefully, stating the facts therein as derived from the best sources available to him. Although errors have inadvertently been made by some of the writers, such mis-statements are few in number, and mostly of minor importance. Each has tried to be accurate. The papers were prepared both for information and entertainment. For the same reasons they are here published.

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